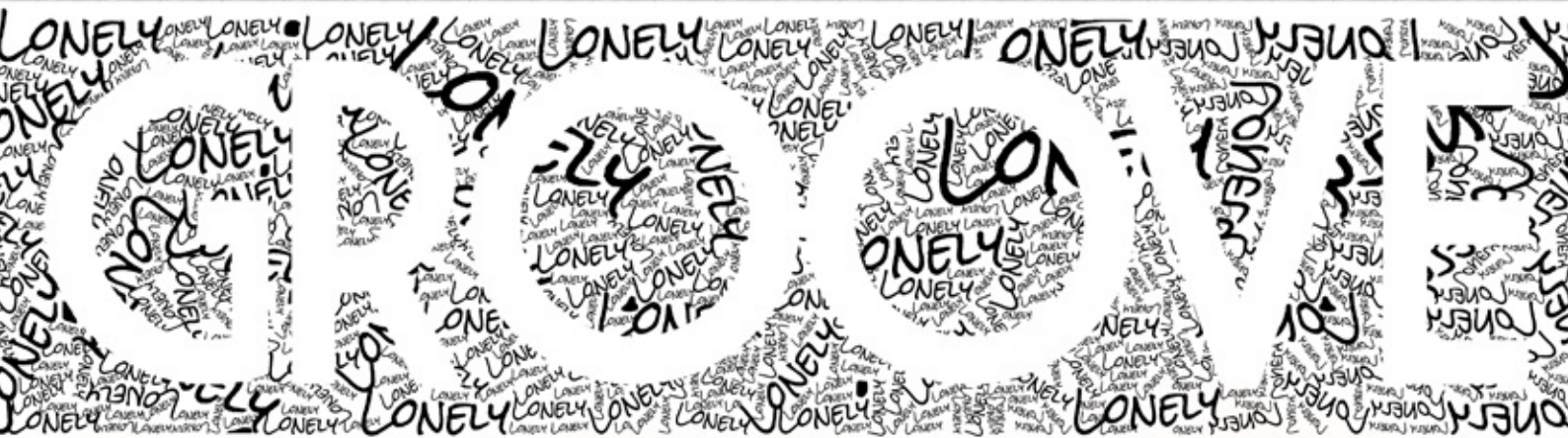


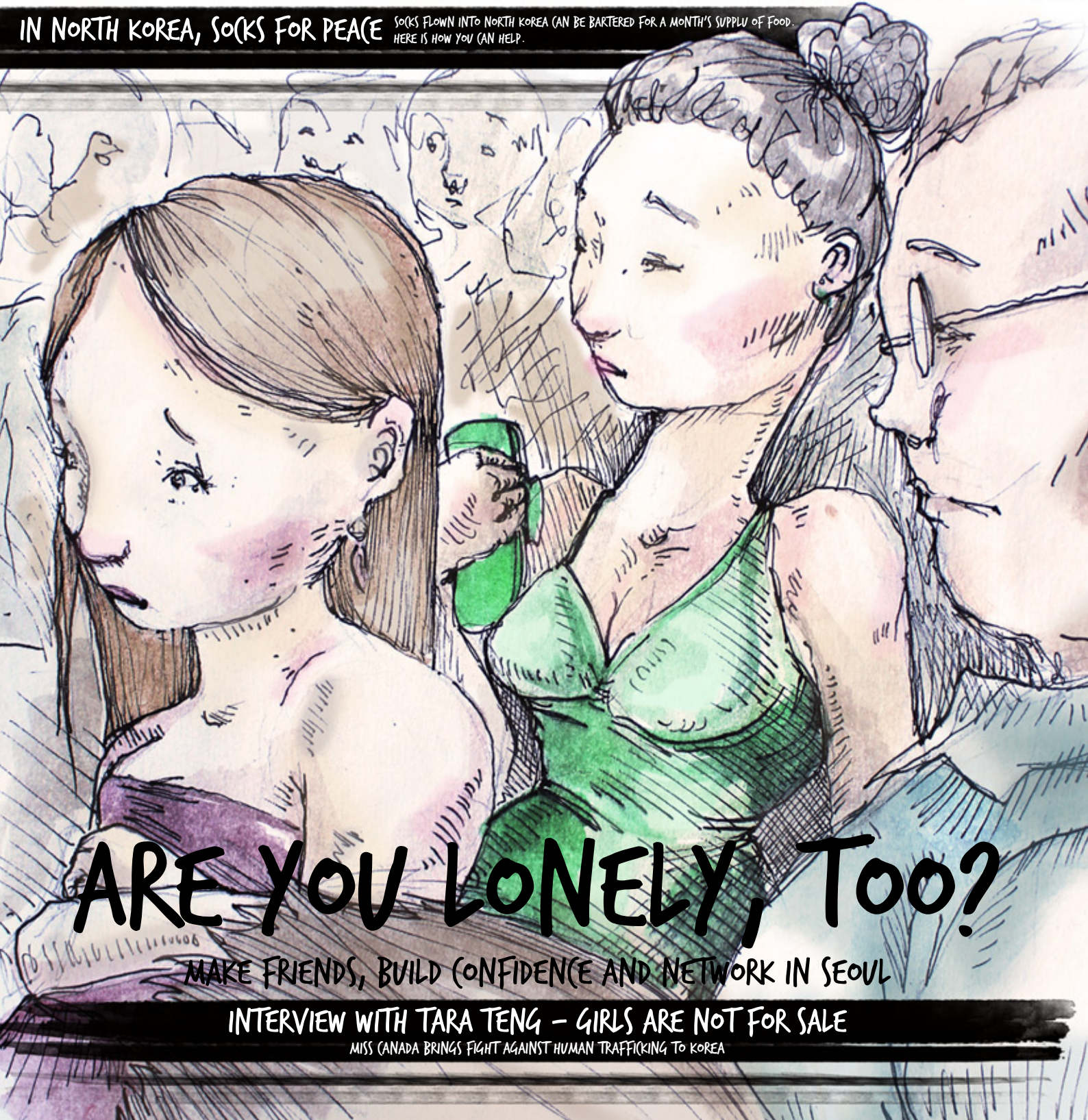
THE EXPAT APARTMENT PROJECT

HOW DO FOREIGNERS ESTABLISH A "HOME" IN KOREA STARTING WITH JUST TWO SUITCASES?



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ARE YOU LONELY, TOO?

MAKE FRIENDS, BUILD CONFIDENCE AND NETWORK IN SEOUL

INTERVIEW WITH TARA TENG - GIRLS ARE NOT FOR SALE

MISS CANADA BRINGS FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO KOREA

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From the editor

GK Have a story? Speak up. E-mail submissions@groovekorea.com or opinion@groovekorea.com.

Let's meet up, Korea

You start with bags weighing about 32 kg. Step 1 is unpacking those two suitcases, the contents of which are all you have to start your new life in Korea. Aside from the essentials – clothes, toiletries, electronics – what else do you have to make your apartment a home? For some, it's posters, photo albums, a few books. You'll probably bring mementos from other sojourns abroad. Maybe your Christmas stocking or even your cat. But what you probably don't bring with you is a return ticket. And so begins your life in Korea. Yet what makes an expat's home a home? This month, Elizabeth Adele Groeschel comes up with some unique answers to that question in "The Expat Apartment Project."

The next step is the hardest. After hanging your photos, getting your Internet connection sorted and finding your new workplace, it's time to put yourself out there to meet new people. With no social network aside from your colleagues to speak of, where do you start?

In Seoul, there are plenty of social outlets to take you beyond the bars. There are teams for every sport, language exchanges (Korea English Network), outdoor groups (Seoul Hiking Club), scholarly organizations (Royal Asiatic Society of Korea), book clubs, and networking channels (Meetup Korea). This month's cover story, "Are You Lonely, Too?" recognizes the transition we go through in adapting to life in a new city and focuses on inroads to positive social interaction. The article also reminds us that it's not only newbies that fall prey to loneliness. Plenty of expat veterans have a hard time finding their social groove, too.

The article examines two groups, starting with Toastmasters. This international non-profit organization has about 35 clubs in Korea. It aims to help members improve their public speaking, communication and leadership skills, but the group does so much more for its members: It fosters confidence and community.

If you are more interested in meeting people, networking and learning about Korea, check out Meetup Korea, which is also featured in the article. Founded just nine months ago, it has quickly become one of the best places for newcomers to network with other expats and Koreans.

Starting in March, Groove Korea will work together with Meetup Korea to promote social gatherings, magazine launch parties, language exchanges, culture exchanges and more. Join us on March 17 for the inaugural Groove Korea-Meetup Korea International Party.



Matthew Lamers
Editor-in-chief
mattlamers@groovekorea.com

HOT ON:

www.GROOVEKOREA.COM

Analysis: Korea's stressed masses

Korea is notorious for being one of the most fast-paced, stressful, and high-pressure environments on the planet – and I want to know what that means for average citizens. Over the course of 20-plus interviews, I am trying to find answers to some basic questions: Where does the pressure come from? How does it affect people's lives? Is there a solution?

Those interviewed are of varied backgrounds. They have different jobs, they are different ages, and they (for the most part) don't know each other. Hopefully some common themes will emerge so people can begin to understand rather than simply shaking their heads and muttering "crazy Koreans."

Read it at www.groovekorea.com in March or in print in April.

By Luc Forsyth

Read it at www.groovekorea.com in March or in print in April.

Food & Drink: Cine de chef

When I was looking for somewhere to take my girlfriend for her birthday, it appeared as if the gods were listening to my prayers as I stumbled across Cine de chef.

At 40,000 won for a movie ticket and 80,000 won apiece for the meal, it certainly isn't something I could do every week, but for a special occasion it was a great choice.

We were treated to the Cine de Chef Experience Set, which comprised eight exquisite courses. I never thought these words would come out of my mouth, but the pollock gills were to die for.

After the eighth course, I was so stuffed that I slouched in my chair in a food-induced bliss, forgetting about the film we were yet to see.

By Dean Crawford

Read it at www.groovekorea.com in March or in print in April.

Community: Out with God

After a 10-minute break following the worship, during which a portion of the Open Doors Community Church congregation scurried out, the most interesting part of the service came: Bible study. The Bible study, as it turned out, was not unlike a theology seminar discussing at length, etymology, historical context in which the verses were written, and the supposed intended meanings of the words of Jesus Christ. This is Korea's only English-speaking LGBT-affirming Christian congregation, and they meet every Sunday at the Well-Being Studio in Itaewon.

By Ara Cho

Read it at www.groovekorea.com in March or in print in April.

BlackBerry

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Your first visit to a Korean bank

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Moving back to Canada

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The future of North Korea

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Balloons of hope

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In North Korea, a pair of socks is worth the equivalent of 10,000 won, which in turn is worth about 10 kilos of corn, enough to feed a person for a month.

Galaxy Express invade America

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One of the country's best-loved indie acts, Seoul garage rockers Galaxy Express depart for a month-long tour of North America.

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Istanbul, Thunder Burger, Namsan Kimchi Jjigae. RIP. You are missed. Here's a look at three newcomers to Noksapyeong-daero, the short street that connects Haebangchon and Gyeongnidan with Itaewon.

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CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE WORKING DAY AND NIGHT
TO BRING YOUR COMMUNITY TO KOREA.

Meet some of the contributors behind March's Groove Korea



Romin Lee Johnson

Romin Lee Johnson is a documentary photographer who hails from New York City. He is a father to two extraordinary boys, and husband to a fearless, radiant wife. He is in search of powerful, unique stories to share. You can find more of his work at rominlee.com. In this issue of Groove Korea, Romin contributed "Socks for peace" in the Analysis section.

Zachary Marx

Zachary Marx graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.A. in Political Science in 2006. Since then, he has taught ESL in China, Japan and Korea. Last year, he started the website 80couches.com where he shares his thoughts on a wide range of topics, from travel to expat life, and occasionally politics. In this issue, Zachary contributed "What to expect from North Korea" in the Analysis section.



Michelle Farnsworth

Michelle Farnsworth has been living in Korea for nine years. She is currently the Foreign Client Relationship Manager in the Shinhan Bank Foreign Customer Department where she is responsible for taking care of foreign clients. While teaching, she completed her MBA at Sejong University. Michelle then worked as a market analyst at a Korean trade company for one year and as a business development consultant before joining Shinhan Bank. Michelle is Groove Korea's finance columnist.

Elizabeth Groeschen

Elizabeth Groeschen is trying to make the most of her second stint in Korea. She loves Seoul despite not loving huge crowds of people. She really appreciates quiet coffee shops and her tap dance studio when she has time for lessons. She's currently working on two documentary photography projects, and planning a trip around the world. Check out her portfolio at www.elizadele.com. Elizabeth contributed "The Expat Apartment Project" in the Arts section.



Rajnesh Sharma

Rajnesh Sharma is a Canadian writer/photographer who has been to nearly 30 countries on a mission to travel as much of the world as possible. When not enthralled in her passion for storytelling, she is intrigued by movies, reading and nature. Rajnesh was one of the authors of our cover story this month, "Are you lonely, too?"



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MUST READS

Look for the Bookmark Sign.

These are your stories, Groove strives to bring the community around you to the palms of your hands.

WE RECOMMEND

The Expat Apartment Project

Page 54 -

How do foreigners arriving in Korea with (at most) two checked pieces of luggage and two carry-ons align a Korean-style living space into a "home," and what activities do they find comfort with in their personal space?



International: India

Page 72 -

Shadows dancing around on the walls told me that Holi was an experience I would never forget.



Are you lonely, too?

Page 86 -

Starting from scratch isn't easy. It's not out of the ordinary for newcomers to Korea to feel a bit lonely.



Socks for peace

Page 24 -

In North Korea, a pair of socks is worth the equivalent of 10,000 won, which in turn is worth about 10 kilos of corn, enough to feed a person for a month.



Galaxy Express

Page 32 -

One of the country's best-loved indie acts, Seoul garage rockers Galaxy Express started off last year on a high note by winning Musicians of the Year. After their March 3rd show in Seoul they depart for a month-long tour in North America.



Read more on our website: groovekorea.com. Check us out on facebook and twitter for free stuff.



C R E D I T S

On The Cover

On the COVER

Starting from scratch isn't easy. It's not out of the ordinary for newcomers to Korea to feel a bit lonely after unpacking their two suitcases. It's a lot to handle right off the bat; creating a home, establishing yourself at a new job and finding a community don't come easy.

See the full story on Page 86.



Find everything you need on life in Korea:

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Cover illustration by: Adela Ordoñez
Design by: Daniel Sanchez

Our past three issues:



February 2012
Top stories: The 3 Wise Monkeys, Seoul Metro Project, Bush interviews



January 2012
Top stories: Roller derby ROK, adoption, Dan Deacon interview



December 2011
Top stories: Christmas in the capital, TBS eFM anniversary, hiking in Seoul



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The INBOX

What's on your mind? Share your thoughts on a Groove article: Did you love it? Did it suck? Are you planning a charity concert and you want to spread the word? Let us know on our facebook page or Twitter and we'll print it here. This is your page to get your message out!

Facebook it; tweet it; e-mail it to submissions@groovekorea.com



FEEDBACK

RE: Feb. story "3WM TAKE ON KOREA"

Solid article with an objective take on 3WM. If people actually read anything anymore, they'd see that there's plenty of writing there worth the reading. Those diagrams aren't from a sketch book. Unreadable, sure, if you're after the latest tweet or fb. post or have a hard time getting past a headline.

As Lamers points out, 3WM's content is "original, edgy and outside the mainstream." Can you dig it?

Doug, Daegu

RE: Groove's ticket giveaway for Evanescence/Bush

Had a pretty good time at that concert. Thanks guys. Not sure I would have paid that 120,000 won price for these bands, but who can turn away free tickets!

Melissa, Seoul

RE: Feb. story "BE WHITE"

Great article. It's unlikely to happen, but white people in Korea need to recognize the enormous benefits conferred upon them because of the color of their skin. I dream of the day when someone can write an article like this without the predictable white whine about how "white people have it bad too" being posted underneath. I'm white and I know I wouldn't have the cozy hagwon job I do, or be nearly as effortlessly popular at work as I am, if I were darker skinned.

Anonymous

RE: Feb. story "SEOUL METRO PROJECT"

What a phenomenal achievement by the Seoul Photo Club to have visited and captured every subway station in Seoul. Amazing dedication. I hope more people in Korea take note and explore their surroundings. Impressive story and design by the magazine, too.

Tim, Seoul



FACEBOOK

Groove follower.

What if living, working and playing in Korea was even more fun and easier? That's what we're set up to help you do.

We set up to help people with shared interests plan meet ups and to form offline clubs in local communities across Korea. We are also a social club to help you meet other people in Korea. Why? To HAVE FUN.

And of course we are a network for sharing advice or for asking questions about anything related to Korea.

So join us and see what else is possible for you in Korea! meetupkorea.com



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Groove follower.

Love what you guys have been doing with the magazine overall these last few months. Maybe you can write more articles on clubs outside of Seoul though. It's spring, so maybe look at Busan Sailing Club. The expat scene on Jeju and in Jeonju are great too.

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Calendar UPCOMING Events

March 2nd - March 31st

REMARKABLE

Mar.
2

Concert



Concert against construction of Jeju naval base @ Freebird

Mar.
10

Networking



Meetup Korea's International Party in Hyehwa

Mar.
12

*More details in calendar



Duran Duran @ Olympic Park; 8 p.m.; <http://ticket.yes24.com>

Mar
2. Friday

• Concert: Rock and Resistance: against construction of Jeju naval base @ Freebird in Hongdae; clubfreebird.com

• Concert: Guitar Wolf, The RockTigers @ Led Zeppelin in Jeonju; 9 p.m. 20,000 won

• Culture: Learn Korean traditional instruments @ National Gugak Center; resister by March 2; www.gugak.go.kr/eng

Mar
8. Thursday

• Drink: Student Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Thursdays); free beer with burger; (02) 333-1604

• Concert: Bobby McFerrin @ Olympic Park, Olympic Hall; >88,000 won

• Exhibit: The Nude Collection @ Gallery Golmok; through March 14; Noksapyeong station, line 6 exit 3

Mar
14. Wednesday

• Lecture: Has Korean Competition Reached Its limit?; 7:30 p.m. @ Somerset Palace; raskb.com

• Social: Quiz night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Wednesdays)

• Food: Cheese steak sandwich night @ Hollywood Grill in Itaewon; (02) 749-1659

Mar
20. Tuesday

• Food: Slider Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Tuesdays); 4 sliders for price of 3; (02) 333-1604

• Rocky Mountain Tavern's 300 won Buffalo Wings (Tuesdays); 010-5189-2327

• Half price appetizers @ Hollywood Bar & Grill in Itaewon (Tuesdays); 5-10 p.m.

Mar
26. Monday

• Language Exchange: Korea English Network meets Monday through Thursday from 6-8 p.m.; look'em up on facebook

• Beer: Gran-A in Novotel Ambassador Doksan; all-you-can-drink beer 10,000 won

• Wing night @ Craftworks in in Noksapyeong on Mondays; craftworkstaphouse.com

Mar
3. Saturday

• Comedy: Stand Up Seoul Rocky Mountain Tavern; 30,000 won; March 2,3

• Tour: Icheon Kiln Tour @ 9 a.m. with Pablo Barrera; raskb.com

• Concert: Guitar Wolf, RockTigers, Galaxy Express @ V-Hall; 7 p.m.; 35,000 won

Mar
9. Friday

• Korean class: Register for free Korean class @ Itaewon Global Center

• Drink: Bucket night @ Beer O'Clock in Sinchon (Fridays); beeroclock.ca

• Exhibit: Yann Arthus Bertrand's exhibit It's My Home @ Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), Jongno-gu; to March 15

Mar
15. Thursday

• Social: Open mic @ Orange Tree in HBC (Thursdays); (02) 749-8202

• Tour: 'Dialogue in the Dark' Exhibition guided tour with SIWA; 30,000 won siwapage.com

• Exhibit: Michael Kenna @ Gallery Kong; photography, through March 18; Anguk station, line 3 exit 1

Mar
21. Wednesday

• Food: Bottomless Fries Night with burger @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Wednesdays); (02) 333-1604

• Concert: Charice Infinity Tour @ AX-Korea; 88,000 won

• Social: Quiz night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Wednesdays)

Mar
27. Tuesday

• Food: 250 won Buffalo Wings @ Nashville in Itaewon on Tuesdays; (02) 798-1592

• Lecture: The Art and Science of Underglaze Painting; 7:30 p.m. @ Somerset Palace; raskb.com

• Class: Pilates Class @ NY Wholistic Care; tour coordinator Heike Giegerich SIWA event; 5,000 won; siwapage.com

Mar
4. Sunday

• Family: Discovering Dinosaurs Expo @ Yongsan War Memorial; Through March 4

• Exhibit: Magnum Photo Exhibition Companions for the Globe @ Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul Arts Center; to March 4

• Food: Buy a pizza, get second half off @ Beer O'Clock, Shinchon (Sunday); (02) 333-9733

Mar
10. Saturday

• Networking: Meetup Korea International Party in Hyehwa; <http://meetupkorea.com>

• Outdoors: Hiking Jirisan Mountain; March 10,11; 100,000 won; seorae@sba.seoul.kr

• Concert: Eight performers @ Freebird in Hongdae; proceeds go to charity, 15,000 won

Mar
16. Friday

• Tour: National Museum of Korea guided tour by Prof. Dave Mason; 18,000 won; siwapage.com

• Drink: Teachers' night @ Big Rock in Gangnam (Fridays); (02) 539-6650

• Exhibit: Oldeastnew @ Gallery Cottonseed Mulla; through March 16, Yeongdeungpo station; design and digital art

Mar
22. Thursday

• Social: Quiz night @ 3 Alley Pub in Itaewon; win beer; 3alleypub.com

• BBQ happy hour @ Oak Room, Seoul Hilton; Mon-Sat, 6-8:30 p.m.; unlimited meat & beer; 34,700 won; (02) 317-3234

• Class: Skincare Cosmetics – DIY; Coordinator Heike Giegerich; 20,000 won; siwapage.com

Mar
28. Wednesday

• Social: Standup comedy (Wednesdays) @ Tony's in Itaewon; tonysitaewon.com

• Social: Quiz night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Wednesdays)

• Ongoing: Fish Market Tour, Vegan Taste Tour, Night Dining Tour; ongofood.com

Mar
5. Monday

- Food: Wing Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Mondays); 400 won/wing; (02) 333-1604
- Beer: 15,000 won all-you-can-drink beer @ Beer Garden, Renaissance Hotel, Gangnam (every day, 6-9 p.m.); (02) 2222-8630
- Drink: All-you-can drink Makgeolli @ Poseokjeong in Sinchon; 4,000 won with food purchase; (02) 332-5538

Mar
11. Sunday

- Russian lessons: 2-4 p.m. every Sunday @ Seoul Global Village Center, Myeongdong; aruskor.org
- Tour: Seochon: Wandering Seoul's Last "Untouched" Neighborhood @ 1:30 p.m. with Robert J. Fouser; raskb.com
- Self-help: AA meeting every Sunday @ the International Lutheran Church; 5 p.m.

Mar
17. Saturday

- Musical: NANTA St. Patrick's Day Event; 30,000 won (free Guinness, drinks); ray@nanta.co.kr
- Arts: Probationary Theatre's Play-In-A-Day @ White Box Theatre
- Tour: Yeosu Tour: Shilluk-Sa, Empress Myeongsong's Birthplace, and King Sejong's Tomb; raskb.com

Mar
23. Friday

- Tour: Jogye-sa Temple guided by Prof. Dave Mason; SIWA event; 18,000 won; siwapage.com
- Drink: 16,000 won beer buffet @ Platinum in Apgujeong; platinumbeer.com
- Drink: Bucket night @ Beer O'Clock in Sinchon (Fridays); beeroclock.ca

Mar
29. Thursday

- Business: Association for Business Communication's Asia-Pacific Region Conference; through March 31; abc@khu.ac.kr
- Info: Free shuttle bus Seoul-Jeonju every day except Monday; visitkorea website
- Travel: 30% discount off KTX tickets reserved through <http://english.visitkoreayear.com> (foreigners only)

Mar
6. Tuesday

- Food: Wing night @ 3 Alley Pub in Itaewon; 3alleypub.com
- Social: SIWA Newcomers' Meeting, 10:30 a.m. @ M-plaza Seoul Global Cultural Center; <http://siwapage.com>
- Info: SIWA HomePlus guided walking tour (helps you find ingredients you need); <http://siwapage.com>

Mar
12. Monday

- Concert: Duran Duran @ Olympic Park; 8 p.m.; <http://ticket.yes24.com>
- Social: Open mic @ Tony's in Itaewon (Mondays); tonsitaewon.com
- Food: Learn about Korea's cuisine with O'ngo culinary tour of Seoul; ongofood.com; ongoing

Mar
18. Sunday

- Outdoors: Sanirang Spring Climbing School; Sundays from March 18 to April 15; 385,000 won; sanirang.net
- Arts: Seoul Players — A Streetcar Named Desire; March 17-April 1; seoulplayers.com
- Tour: Walking Through Bukcheon @ 9:30 a.m. with Prof. David Mason; raskb.com

Mar
24. Saturday

- Drink: Vodka Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Saturdays); Bottle of Russian Vodka 39,000 won; (02) 333-1604
- Food: Learn about Korea's cuisine with O'ngo culinary tour of Seoul; ongofood.com
- Info: Free shuttle bus Seoul-Gyeongju every day except Monday; Seoul departure 8 a.m.; Gyeongju Departure 4 p.m.; visit-korea@chestours.co.kr

Mar
30. Friday

- Arts: Art by Probationary Theatre; through April 8; 15,000 won; probationarytheatre.com
- Arts: Educating Rita @ Cut Glass Theatre; through April 14; cutglasstheatre@gmail.com
- Drink: Bucket night @ Beer O'Clock in Sinchon (Fridays); beeroclock.ca

Mar
7. Wednesday

- Food: Cheese steak sandwich night @ Hollywood Grill in Itaewon; (02) 749-1659
- Exhibit: Mina Cheon's exhibit Polipop, Political Pop Art @ Sungkok Art Museum, Jongno-gu; to March 11
- Exhibit: Gunther von Hagen exhibit Body Worlds @ War Memorial of Korea; to March 8

Mar
13. Tuesday

- Food: 2 For 1 fish & chips @ Woldhound (Tuesdays); wolfhoundpub.com
- Exhibit: Maik Wolf's exhibit EXTERITORY II @ Michael Schultz Gallery (Cheongdam station, line 7 exit 9); to March 15
- Info: Open registration to volunteer through Itaewon Global Village Center; global.seoul.go.kr/itaewon

Mar
19. Monday

- Outdoors: Hiking at Bukhan-san National Park with SIWA @ 9:30 a.m.; 8,000 won; siwapage.com
- Fitness: Message Mondays @ Sky Wellness Center in Itaewon
- Beer: 15,000 won all-you-can-drink beer @ Beer Garden, Renaissance Hotel, Gangnam (every day, 6-9 p.m.); (02) 2222-8630

Mar
25. Sunday

- Tour: Walking lecture excursion through Joseon Dynasty Seoul @ 9 a.m. with Peter Bartholomew; raskb.com
- Self-help: Overeaters Anonymous meeting @ the International Lutheran Church; 7:30 p.m.
- Self-help: Codependents Anonymous meeting @ the International Lutheran Church; 5 p.m.

Mar
31. Saturday

- Concert: Fall of Mirra, Downhell, Remnants of the Fallen etc. @ V-Hall in Hongdae; 4:30 p.m.
- Food: Ongoing: Fish Market Tour, Vegan Taste Tour, Night Dining Tour; ongofood.com

Calendar UPCOMING Events

March 2nd - March 31st

Onion Rings for only 1000won @ Hillside in Itaewon (Tuesdays). Free cocktail in March @ Hillside in Itaewon.

MEMORABLE

Mar.
17

St. Patrick's Day



Irish Association
of Korea's St. Patrick's Day
Festival downtown

Mar.
17

St. Patrick's Day



NANTA St. Patrick's Day
Event; 30,000 won (free
Guinness)

Mar.
17

St. Patrick's Day



Saint Patrick's Day
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Police arrest Uzbekistani for stabbing her husband

Police tracked down and arrested a woman who stabbed her abusive husband in a domestic dispute.

According to a Paju police station official in Gyeonggi Province, a 22-year-old Uzbekistani woman stabbed her 41-year-old husband in the thigh during a domestic dispute at approximately 7:40 p.m. and then fled the scene. Police said the man was treated in hospital and released. His life was never in danger.

Police said the couple frequently fought and that man often beat his wife.

3 suicide stories — one day in February

Suicide dominated headlines in February.

Here's a snapshot of suicide coverage in one day last month: First, a middle school student in Gangnam killed himself by jumping out of his 7th-floor apartment. He left behind a note saying that he was under unbearable stress from the need to study so much and shuttle from one hagwon to another.

Second, police in Gunsan rescued a man who was threatening a second suicide attempt following a previous rescue. He was unharmed.

Last, in a story that reached No. 1 on Naver, a woman committed suicide after her pet dog died, leaving behind a note saying that she wanted to be with it in the afterlife.

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SCHOOL VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO BE MAJOR SOCIAL DILEMMA

School violence has been one of the dominant topics in the Korean media since late December. In February, four stories landed on the front page of Naver's Society section.

1. Police uncovered an organized cycle of violence being perpetrated at a high school in Daegu. Older students would beat up and humiliate younger students using techniques learned from gangster movies, and the younger students would then turn around and do the same to the next class of kids to follow them.

2. In Gimhae, two high school boys were arrested and charged with making over 9.4 million won by forcing younger students — including elementary students — to stay up late at night selling baked sweet potatoes in bars and other places.

3. In Seoul, police say parents are increasingly coming to them when school officials refuse to take serious action regarding bullying and violence. One boy's parents are bringing criminal charges against teachers who failed to prevent their son from being assaulted.

4. One reporter looked back at the student suicides in Daegu and Seoul that brought about the massive attention currently being paid to the issues of bullying and school violence.

In other education news, teachers say students are increasingly ignoring them if they are not full-time, regular teachers. For example, substitute teachers or part-time teachers in specific subjects such as English conversation can't seem to get the students to pay attention.

'COURT MANIA' IS SWEEPING KOREA

An increasing number of people are taking in court cases as spectators. The Chosun Ilbo reported on a 35-year-old television producer who has been to the Seoul Central District Courts over 30 times since 1998. "I think it helps me come up with all kinds of directorial ideas and scenarios," the man said. Four or five times a month he clears his schedule to attend criminal court sessions.

"Unlike television and film, you're seeing real life itself. There was one defendant, a young person who had burgled a wealthy family in Gangnam in order to get money for powdered milk. The defendant's mother came to the court to beg for mercy, and wept as if she were losing an infant. Although it produced a short news article, I saw a deep human drama."

The media is dubbing it "court mania."

The recent popular movies "The Case of Itaewon Homicide" (2009), "The Client" (2011), and "Unbowed" (2011) were all courtroom dramas, and the number of people who want to see the spectacle of justice is increasing.

"Shadow Jury" is also popular. The program allows people to be shadow jurors, following a case as if they were real jurors, and decide whether a defendant is guilty or innocent. Over the past year, 567 people have participated in the Seoul Central District Courts alone.

"Over 350 people have participated in the judicial project formed in our organization ... 80 percent are law school students or preparing for the bar exam, and the rest are ordinary people," said a spokesman for People Power 21s judiciary center.

Min Jun-ho, who teaches a class on "Law and Society" in a test-preparation hagwon, has been going to courts for the last four years. Every time he goes, Min is accompanied by 20 to 30 teenagers from his classes. "The court is a space where we can see the two extremes of our society through one eye ... through watching the judges and prosecutors, who have studied hard and become elite, and the defendants who committed crimes and been knocked to the bottom of society, students can feel many things," he said.

"It's so popular that students from the provinces will take highway buses to come watch, and when we saw a case where a father was murdered to save the mother from his abuse, everyone wept. It was difficult even for the court-appointed defense counsel."

Women complain about lack of toilets

Journalists from MBC News spent their New Year filing a report on a lack of women's toilets at rest stops along highways – especially in comparison to the number of urinals and toilets available for men. "In front of the bathrooms in highway rest stops, there are enough men's bathrooms but women's bathrooms see long lines," the report opened.

"On holidays and other days off, women have to deal with the same problem. Here we are at a rest stop off the Seohaean Expressway. Men have 112 stalls and urinals while women have 73. That leaves women 39 spaces short." At least half of rest stops have fewer facilities for women.

Woman busted for mail-order marijuana

The foreign affairs division of the Seoul Central District Public Prosecutor's Office arrested without detention 49-year-old "Ms. M," a civilian worker in the U.S. military, on charges of smuggling marijuana.

According to police, the woman asked an acquaintance in the U.S. to send her 50.22 grams of marijuana inside two seasoning bags through international mail.

They say Ms. M used a post office box registered in her daughter's name on the U.S. military base to receive the marijuana.

The woman has denied all accusations, according to police.



March 2012

'WOMEN-ONLY' LIBRARY IS DISCRIMINATORY: NHRCK

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea ruled that a municipal library for women only constitutes gender discrimination. The ruling is not binding.

The NHRCK judged that the operation by a civic group of a women-only public library violates men's rights to equality and constitutes discrimination, and advised the library to cease excluding men.

The case was brought to the NHRCK by a 29-year-old office worker in June of 2011. The man argued: "The library is operated as a women-only library and excludes men, which is discriminatory."

The library – which was called "Library B" – responded: "The library was founded by a donor who contributed land in order to build a library for women, and also operates four other locations in the city that men can use ... Also, in a women-only library, the bathrooms, reading rooms, stairs and maternal facilities are made especially for women, so it would not be appropriate for men to be able to use them."

The NHRCK acknowledged that a condition of the donation was that it include a small women-only library. The NHRCK said that maternal facilities should be open for men and women; reading rooms have no need to be divided by sex; and the addition of men's restrooms would require little investment, so there is no justification for discrimination.

The library retorted, saying it believes it is appropriate to place more restrictions on men than women because its patrons constitute 15 percent of all library patrons in the city and that volume makes it more difficult to run a library for both sexes.

PERVERT TEACHER INDICTED FOR SNAPPING SLY PHOTOS

A middle school teacher has been indicted for possession of a memory card containing over 500 pictures that were secretly taken with a cellphone. The Seoul Central Prosecutor's Office on Crimes Against Women and Children announced that the 31-year-old Mr. Ahn was being brought up on charges of secretly photographing women's legs and other body parts.

Ahn was caught by the police while photographing a woman's legs on an escalator in Seoul Station on Oct. 6. Ahn was then charged with one count of taking those photographs. However, prosecutors found that his phone contained a four-gigabyte SD card containing more images and opened an investigation on further charges.

There were a total of 533 images of 223 women taken from April of 2009 through October of last year. Ahn took the photos without revealing the women's identities or locations.

Most alarming were photos he snapped of students at the school where he worked. He photographed female students' skirts as they cleaned the stairs and photographed fellow teachers' legs as they used the copy machine.

Another report says that he also photographed himself groping women on the subway. He reportedly confessed to the police that he spent years fighting his urges, but was evidently unable to overcome them.

Han River trash turns out to be ice (but very dirty ice)

After an increasing number of phone calls by citizens concerned about the volume of trash in the Han River, Seoul City confirmed that the "trash" is actually very dirty ice. Ice floating in the Han River mixes with exhaust from nearby automobiles, causing it to take on the appearance of garbage in the river. An official with the city's department in charge of the Han River said that: "This is an example of the high regard the city's people have for the River ... We will work even harder to keep the river clean for them because of their constant concern for it."

Support for liberalization of strict school rules

The parents' organization Association of Parents Making Good Schools praised the proposal of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology to amend the law to allow greater freedom in school regulations for students' hairstyles and use of electronic devices.

"Despite the sense that students' rights must be respected at school, there seems to have been significant trouble over students' hairstyles and dress codes following the end of the winter break, and we are worried that this will only grow during the new semester," aid spokesperson Seo In-suk.

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7 IN 10 WOMEN SEXUALLY HARASSED IN WORKPLACE

Seven in 10 office female workers say they have experienced sexual harassment at their place of employment, a survey found last month.

The job portal site Career surveyed 405 office workers, finding that 40.5 percent had experienced sexual harassment at work. The results were significantly worse for women than they were for men. Just over 70 percent of women reported they had been sexually harassed versus 27.4 percent of men.

The perpetrators were mainly superiors (78.7 percent), followed by owners (13.4 percent), and colleagues (7.9 percent).

Forty-four percent of the incidents occurred at office dinner parties, followed by during work hours (31.7 percent), drinking outside of office parties (15.9 percent), and during workshops or other office events (7.9 percent).

The forms of harassment included excessive, unwanted touching (59.8 percent), sexual jokes (45.7 percent), comments on physical appearance (33.5 percent), staring (24.4 percent), making unreasonable demands (7.9 percent), and demands for sexual intercourse (5.5 percent).

The responses dealt with the harassment in various ways. The vast majority (78%) said they "just put up with it," 12.8 percent said they quit their job, 5.5 percent demanded an apology, 2.4 percent notified their union, and 1.3 said they gave their boss a taste of his own medicine.

Just 17.8 percent said their offices had policies in place to deal with sexual harassment.

To combat sexual harassment at work, 47.4 percent said that the top priority should be for workplaces to enact prevention policies, 35.3 percent chose harsher punishments, 11.4 percent chose a better system of reporting and advice, and 5.7 percent chose punishing owners of firms.

APPEALS COURT AFFIRMS SEXUAL ASSAULT CONVICTIONS

Early last month, the Seoul High Courts' 8th criminal division, led by Chief Judge Hwang Hwan-shik, affirmed the conviction of three ex-Korea University students for sexually assaulting a woman who had passed out. Twenty-four-year-old "Mr. Park" will serve 2.5 years in prison and 25-year-old "Mr. Han" and 26-year-old "Mr. Bae" will each be behind bars for 1.5 years.

It wasn't an easy decision for the judge.

"The defendants are young and talented, so it is difficult for a judge to sentence them to prison," said the judge. "Life is long. The victim and the defendants are all facing a difficult time and can still make something good out of it."

The three Korea University medical students were indicted for molesting a female classmate while she had passed out from drinking. In an unusual display for a judge, Chief Judge Hwang betrayed his anguish as he read the opinion.

The court wrote: "While drinking with a friend they had known for the past six years, the defendants decided on a moment's whim to commit their crime when she fell asleep and continued to molest her ... afterwards the victim's identity was published and she fell under severe stress and had difficulty simply living, a second victimization, so it would be difficult to pronounce a sentence of simply probation."

The court continued: "We find that Mr. Bae, who denies having committed any crime, in fact confessed it to the counseling center at his school as well as to the police."

"When the victim began to stir, they asked her if she remembered everything and continued, demonstrating that they did not act while sleeping or unconscious, but rather did so willfully."

Mr. Bae was indicted for defamation last month after he spread false rumors around the university that the victim, "Ms. A" had a personality disorder.

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COLUMNS

Banking advice
for Expats

By: Michelle Farnsworth

"Dear Michelle: Banking Advice for Expats" is a monthly column written by Michelle Farnsworth. Michelle is the Foreign Client Relationship Manager in the Shinhan Bank Foreign Customer Department. Please visit "Shinhan Expat Banking" on Facebook for more information. The banking information provided in this column is based on Shinhan Bank policies and may not be applicable to all banks in Korea. - Ed.

Your first visit to a Korean bank

Open a salary or savings account, get an international check or credit card



DEAR MICHELLE,

I am planning to visit a bank in Korea for the first time. Any advice?

~First Timer

Dear First Timer,

You must bring your passport and Alien Registration Card (if you have one) with you for your first visit to the bank. If you only have a passport, you are considered a tourist. But if you have a passport and an ARC, you are considered a resident, and the number of banking products and services that are available to you greatly increases.

You may also wish to bring your laptop and/or a USB with you if you would like help setting up your online bank account. To set up your Internet banking account in Korea you must install security software on your computer – which can be somewhat complicated for some people.

Also be sure to bring all of the appropriate information if you plan to send money overseas:

Receiving bank info:

- The receiving bank's name
- The receiving bank's address
- The receiving bank's SWIFT Code or other routing number

Recipient info:

- Recipient's name
- Recipient's phone number
- Recipient's address
- Recipient's email address
- Recipient's bank account number

Lastly, bring this handy checklist with you to help make your visit go smoothly. Hopefully it will help reduce the number of visits to your bank branch in the future:

1. Ask to open a salary account and have your salary deposited directly into this account each month. Most banks offer worthwhile benefits for having your salary deposited each month. Once you have your bank book for this account, simply bring it to your HR director or whoever is in charge of paying your salary. They will make a copy of it and start depositing your salary into this new account.

2. Ask for an international check card (if you have an ARC). An international check card will allow you to access your account from ATMs in Korea and overseas and to make purchases at retailers in Korea, overseas, and online. If you do not specifically request an international check card, they probably will not give one to you. And that will be a royal pain when you are on vacation in the Philippines and are in need of cash.

3. Ask to register for online banking (if you have an ARC). You must register for online banking in person at a bank branch in Korea. With your bank's online banking system you can view your transaction history, make domestic transfers, pay local bills, or send money overseas to anyone, anywhere 24 hours a day. Online banking is the most convenient way to manage your accounts, and you also save on transaction fees.

4. Ask your teller to designate this bank as your "Primary Foreign Exchange Transaction Bank" so that you will be able to send money overseas from your online account.

5. Optional: There are many options available to you as well. Ask for the "SMS Alert Service" so that anytime there is any activity in your account, you will receive an SMS message on your cell phone with the transaction amount and your updated account balance. This is a great service and an easy way to make sure you are getting paid on time.

There are still many services you can take advantage of: Apply for a credit card – yes expats can get Korean credit cards, but usually its validity date will not surpass your work permit's expiration date.

Here's the best way to save money: Open an installment account to have a little money automatically deducted from your salary account and deposited into an interest-earning account each month. Start saving for your round-the-world trip now!

And remember, if you have trouble communicating, see if it is possible for your teller to call the bank's English Call Center to translate for you.

Bring this handy checklist with you to help make your visit go smoothly. Hopefully it will help reduce the number of visits to your bank branch in the future.

CONTACT MICHELLE

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COLUMNS

Repatriate Me

By: Sean Smith

This monthly column is essentially a best-of from a blog Sean Smith started at the beginning of his plan to move back to Canada after living in Korea since 1997. You can read it in its entirety at repatriate.me. This month's Groove Korea column was originally put on repatriate.me on Feb. 22, 2011. – Ed.

My only friend is a volleyball named Wilson

Day 1: Get a bank account, credit card, address, car and phone



Living here in Korea makes me feel like Tom Hanks in Cast Away and my only Web developer friend is a volleyball named Wilson.

Over the last couple of weeks various friends, colleagues and other people I know have been offering up unsolicited comments along the lines of "You're going to do well when you move" and "I know you're going to land on your feet" and "I know you're going to succeed in Canada." These comments are great in that my friends have confidence in me and are encouraging.

However, I'm wondering if I'm emitting some sort of nervousness/panic

aura. I don't think I am. I also don't think these sorts of things are coming out in conversation unknowingly. I'm confident that I'm not going to end up living on the street, but am not so confident about maintaining my family's current lifestyle and comfort level. In any case, the encouragement from friends is good and welcome, but at the same time it is putting a little pressure on me.

Will I live up to all of these expectations?

I'm definitely worried about a number of things – the biggest one is hemorrhaging money for the first few months while both my wife and I look for work.

I'm 40 years old with essentially no job history in Canada. I'm switching fields as I don't see teaching English as a second language as a viable career in Canada.

It's definitely worthwhile here in Korea, but by all accounts not worth pursuing in Canada.

I'm confident that I'm not going to end up living on the street, but am not so confident about maintaining our current lifestyle and comfort level. In any case, the encouragement from friends is welcome, but at the same time, it is putting a little pressure on me. Will I live up to these expectations?

On the upside, I do have a business that I'm bringing with me to Canada, but I struggle to bring in regular income. I'm actually planning on rebranding my business and have plans to take some classes to improve both my skills and business knowledge. First up is PHP, a Web programming language, followed by a primer course in small business management. Shortly after landing in Toronto, I've arranged to meet a number of other Web developers and hope that I can make some new friends as well as network and learn more about business. Living here in Korea makes me feel like Tom Hanks in Cast Away and my only Web developer friend is a volleyball named Wilson.

Other concerns I have are more short term and will resolve themselves in a matter of days/weeks after landing. Even so, they are big concerns. I need to get a credit card ASAP (will need to cancel my Korean card before I leave) so I don't have to carry around large amounts of cash or pay outrageous ATM fees. How possible is that with a temporary address? Atop the list are changing my driver's license and buying a car, but I need an address in order to get car insurance.

Here's some of what's on my to-do list on my first day back in Canada:

- Get into whatever short-term accommodation I can find
- Get to a bank
- Get a car (But can I rent a car without a credit card?)
- I will need a phone, probably a disposable one, but again, can I do this without a credit card or an address?

What I really need is someone in Toronto to lend me their mailing address until I get my own. Unfortunately, I don't know anyone well enough to ask. I had someone lined up in Ottawa, but Toronto is not Ottawa.

Months later...

In the end all of the above concerns worked themselves out. I kept my Korean credit card and will cancel it on my next trip back; I need to get my deposit back. Through facebook friends I was able to secure a mailing address.

Facebook also helped me get a good deal on a used car. I got a phone with a monthly contract, rather than a disposable one. Since I had a mailing address this was possible, and in the long run it was cheaper to just get myself on a phone plan.

One thing to really be prepared for is how much more expensive cell phones are in Canada. I feel like I sold my soul to the devil when I signed that phone contract.

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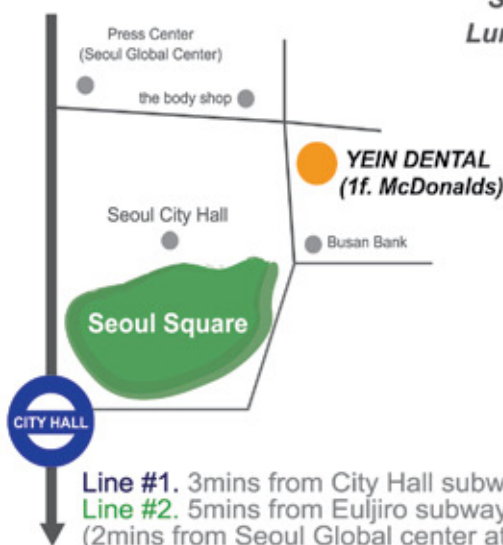
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What to expect from NORTH KOREA

Were I to make a prediction, it would be that we will see the status quo with the new Dear Leader for at least several years to come. In the meantime, we wait.

By Zachary Marx

More than two months have passed since Kim Jong-il's death in December. Little has changed, but at least a couple of questions have been answered: Would the dictator's death lead to a watershed moment in the relationship between the Koreas? No. Would business continue as usual on the other side of the 38th parallel? For the most part, yes.

Now it's time to dust off my old political scientist hat and give my two cents about our next-door neighbor. Before I begin, I would like to state a disclaimer: I'm not an expert on North Korea, and even experts on North Korea haven't a clue to what a post-Kim Jong-il world will look like.

For the second time in both political history and North Korea alike, the reins of power were handed over by genetic succession, with Kim Jong-un ascending to lead the country. It seems many Koreans and political scientists are unsure what to make of this transition. On the one hand, the relationship between the Koreas couldn't get much worse, short of reigniting the

Korean War. In this regard any change has the potential for positive results. On the other, Kim Jong-un might feel it is necessary to provoke South Korea in order to curry favor with the regime's old guard.

In some ways, the son is between a rock and a hard place. The current regime rules over a mere shell of a country.

The economy is practically nonexistent, North Korea lacks any real allies, and the threat of widespread famine is chronic.

It is quite remarkable that the regime has managed to rule over this country for as long as it has, but without substantial changes, how long can it really expect to last? How long can a country survive on handouts from enemies and allies alike? Even if Kim Jong-un wanted to enact sweeping changes, he faces very real threats from both the old guard party members and the citizens.

The change in leadership could either lead to liberalization and eventual reunification, or to no changes at all, with a steadfast dedication to

the status quo. Let's look at these options one at a time.

A significant part of me wants to believe that this change in leadership will create positive long-term changes for both North and South Korea, but I realize there are huge barriers on both sides of the border standing in the way of such reforms. There are some facts that do support my inclination that Kim Jong-un will help to change the status quo in North Korea.

He is relatively young (younger than me, in fact), and far removed from the generation of "revolutionaries" that first stormed into power (i.e. being propped up by the Soviet Union).

He was also educated in Switzerland, and for the life of me, I can't believe that he would see that beautiful country and all of the rights they have and not be affected in some way.

This all sounds well and good on paper, but even if he wanted to change the country, he faces severe internal threats. In a closed country with an all-powerful propaganda machine, any change would be difficult.

In the fantastic book "Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea," the North Korean refugees who escaped the regime all felt a deep sense of guilt for defecting, despite their malnourished bodies and constant fear. And those were the people who escaped. Nevertheless, a little bit of freedom can go a long way toward the eventual demise of a regime, just ask the ex-leaders of the Soviet Union or many of the recently fallen Middle Eastern regimes (if they were they still around).

As if the internal threat of a citizen-led revolt were not enough, there is also a threat of a coup d'état from within the party. I'm sure many of the old guard generals are not thrilled to see a young buck in control. Were he to change things too quickly, especially by conspiring with "The Puppet Regime," he could just as quickly lose his support. It has been speculated that North Korea spends approximately 25 percent of its GNP on its military, so military support is vital to any leader of the country.

Furthermore, let us not forget the external barriers to any possible reunification efforts. The wealth disparity between the Koreas is four times greater than the gap between East and West Germany when the Berlin Wall came down. To what extent would South Korea's 49 million citizens be willing to support an additional 25 million North Koreans? Studies put the cost of reunification for the South anywhere from hundreds of billions of dollars to over \$1 trillion. Needless to say, many South Koreans are not welcoming the idea. The financial burden would be extreme, and then there are intangible social burdens such as educational, cultural and linguistic differences to deal with.

But it also comes down to this. What's in it for the North Korean regime? When studying any regime, we must consider one over-arching fact that all regimes have in common: they want to maintain power at all costs. This means that regimes only change when they feel it

is in their best interest to do so. And history has shown a clear correlation between oppressive regimes and their unwillingness to change; North Korea, of course, being an example of an extremely oppressive and totalitarian state.

One of the many reasons I found studying Chinese politics so interesting in college was the fact that this supposedly communist regime was able to make the transition to capitalism while maintaining its oppressive brand of authoritarianism in so many other regards. Starting in the late 1970's under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese Communist Party realized that the only way to keep their jobs (and their necks) was to pull the country out of poverty by loosening their noose on the economy.

This should be a blueprint on how to make a slow transition while maintaining power, but sadly, it is one that has not been followed. Instead, most regimes create either financial and/or human catastrophes in the wake of their inevitable fall from power. In North Korea's case, the financial and human catastrophes have been ongoing for two decades – and somehow the regime still stands.

It would be great to see North Korea make a similar long and slow transition toward capitalism the way China has, but this is clearly wishful thinking. It is also wishful thinking that a change in power will lead to any meaningful changes in either the standing of North Korea within the international community or within the country itself. Nevertheless, the fact remains that we know very little about the new dictator in Pyongyang. We don't even know his age. So no one can say for certain that Kim Jong-un won't be the next Mikhail Gorbachev – and that's about as optimistic as it gets.

Were I to make a prediction, it would be that we will see the status quo with the new Dear Leader for at least several years to come. In the meantime, we wait.

Paju resident Zachary Marx is a graduate with a degree in Political Science from the University of Tennessee. The opinions expressed here do not represent those of Groove Korea. — Ed.



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A N A L Y S I S

Socks for peace

For North Koreans, Balloons of hope

He likened the North Korean regime to a sand castle — “You keep pouring water over it, it will eventually collapse.” — Lee Ju-seong, North Korean defector and founder of North Korea Peace

Story and photography by Romin Lee Johnson







Each balloon would stand about 30 feet high, anxiously reaching toward the heavens. Mr. Lee attached each balloon to a box of socks with a timer. We sent up the first two balloons, which went up with surprising velocity, as if they were impelled upward by more than just hydrogen. They were quickly out of sight.



Read more on our website: www.groove-korea.com. Check us out on facebook and twitter for free junk.

THERE was a light rain coming down as my wife, our two young boys and I emerged from the Itaewon station elevator on an otherwise ordinary morning. Our 3-year-old, Justin, was in his usual spot, straddling the top of the stroller, while little Joel kept to himself, and his snacks, strapped safely inside.

We stood for a moment in front of the Hamilton Hotel in a bit of a daze, knowing that we were running late for

the bus pickup to the Demilitarized Zone separating the on-again off-again warring South and North Korea. I sent a hurried text to Jane, one of the event's organizers, not to leave without their volunteer photographer.

I had decided on a whim that week that I was going to cover a balloon launch hosted by North Korea Peace, an organization that sends socks to North Korea via balloons every month.



My wife and I had talked from time to time about volunteering together as a family. We wanted to instill a sense of community and giving back in our sons early on, so when the opportunity to tag along to this sock launch presented itself, we decided to make a family trip out of it. My mother is from Seoul, and my father is from Maine; naturally, I've always felt like a child of two worlds. I thought perhaps that doing some pro bono work for an organization trying to help the people of North Korea would be a great place in which to put our efforts.

Images of North Korea have been emblazoned on my mind for years now. I saw a documentary by a few Russian filmmakers when I was fresh out of high school over a decade ago. I remember seeing haunting images of the streets of Pyongyang as these fellows were escorted from statue to

statue, permitted to shoot only certain things. They arrived at a lush hotel, but were forced to take the 10 or 12 flights of stairs to their room as the elevator was out of service.

They took out their camera equipment and steadied a shot from their window on a uniformed woman on the street. She was standing stoically in a large intersection directing traffic that wasn't there. She motioned harshly, efficiently, the kind of movement that comes with intensive military training. That image from over 10 years ago is what made me decide to take up documentary photography.

So there we were, blinking into the morning mist, hoping that we hadn't missed the pickup. Scanning the street, we found the bus up the block, and we were soon on our way towards the border.



We were greeted by about 20 smiling volunteers – many of them expats. En route, we were shown a short documentary on North Korea; my thoughts went back to that documentary from 10 years ago. This time, there were no traffic officers, no ghostly hotels.

There were, however, images of young boys and girls who looked like they might have been 6 or 7 years old. We learned that they were actually 10, 11, 12 years old, well below average height and weight as compared to South Korean children of the same age. Endemic poverty and malnutrition during their early years caused them to look much younger than they actually were. As a father of two, it made quite an impression on me. I looked over at my two boys across the aisle, busily climbing over my wife, and felt a quiet gratitude come over me.

We pulled into a nondescript parking lot not far from the DMZ. Lee Ju-seong, a North Korean defector and the founder of North Korea Peace, led us off the bus to a staging area by a truck filled with hydrogen tanks for the balloons.

The volunteers gathered by the truck and Mr. Lee started us off by recounting some stories about what it was like to live in North Korea. He recalled seeing flyers falling from the sky on a cold winter day several years ago. He picked one up and was confronted by words of love and hope from their neighbors to the south. It went against everything he had been led to believe.

Once the possibility of something better took hold in his mind, he knew that he needed to escape to the South for the sake of his family.



He then introduced us to his wife and youngest child, a marvel of a little boy in between our boys' ages. Mr. Lee continued as the three boys began chasing each other in the empty parking lot while the volunteers listened intently.

He informed us that in North Korea, a pair of socks is worth the equivalent of 10,000 won, which in turn is worth about 10 kilos of corn, enough to feed a person for a month. It's hard to fathom that socks – something so ordinary, something so easily taken for granted – could be used as currency. Of course they can also be used for their intended purpose against the bitter cold. But he insisted that we were not just sending socks. We were sending hope. "A pair of socks can transform a life," he stated plainly. This was no spiel. It was his truth, his gospel, his *raison d'être*. Mr. Lee

showed us his technique for packaging and sending the socks. He had spent the night before the launch at his home with volunteers packing boxes with hundreds of socks and pamphlets. He tied a lanyard around the box, which he would then attach to a single, enormous balloon with a small plastic timer, set to release the contents of the box after a three-hour flight.

Volunteers came on deck as we filled the large, clear plastic balloons with hydrogen – we were informed that hydrogen is much more cost-effective than helium. He led a hose from a tank of hydrogen to the mouth of the balloon as volunteers unfurled the length of plastic, taking care not to drop or tear the thin material.

It took about eight to ten volunteers to help fill each balloon, holding the length horizontally as it slowly filled with gas.



After about 10 minutes, each balloon would stand about 30 feet high, anxiously reaching toward the heavens. Mr. Lee attached each balloon to a box of socks with a timer. We sent up the first two balloons, which went up with surprising velocity, as if they were impelled upward by more than just hydrogen. They were quickly out of sight.

We went about filling the next three balloons, but perhaps a bit over-zealously – two of these balloons found their way back down prematurely several hundred yards away. By then, we were told the weather was no longer in our favor, and that it would be wise to pack up and save the socks and balloons for the next launch. All told, we had sent roughly 600 of the intended 1,000 socks that North Korea Peace aims to send each month. Six hundred socks; 6,000 kilos of corn.

We made our way back to Itaewon feeling content, but awfully hungry for lunch. We ate samgyupsal together with Mr. Lee, who happily and humbly continued to share his many anecdotes. When he had first started North Korea Peace he required the financial support of various religious groups in America. He had his hands tied, however, since these groups could dictate the messages to include in the sock shipments; they were providing the funding, after all. Now that his organization has gotten some traction, he has full control over the content of the flyers he sends. They are less about religion and more about hope.

He vividly recalled a two-month period of relative freedom in the autumn of 1998. Various international sanctions had vastly limited food aid to North Korea for several months.



Food rations, he says, had been the lifeblood of the North Korean regime; the misappropriation of international aid within North Korea has been well documented. He posited that since there had been no food aid to distribute, the military state held little sway over government officials. Many officials left their posts, he claims, to be with their families. Had the international food sanctions continued just one more month, he assured us that the regime as we know it would have completely collapsed.

The sanctions were overturned, however, and South Korea was once again bending over backwards to appease its enemy. Kim Jong-il and his government had its lifeblood once again.

He let out a heavy sigh and paused a moment before continuing. He likened the North Korean regime to a sand castle – “You keep pouring

water over it, it will eventually collapse.”

“Of course there will be reunification,” he answered without hesitation when asked. “Like we saw in Libya, something will happen from within North Korea, coupled with outside support. Like what we did today,” he said, referring to the sock launch.

As we said our goodbyes and made preparations to leave, I noticed that it had been about three hours since we had sent the balloons and their precious cargo. I imagined the timers releasing and the socks and flyers falling toward North Korean soil. I smiled to myself, wanting to believe that the socks would soon be in the hands of those who most needed them, as we packed our precious cargo into our stroller and made our way home.



M U S I C

Galaxy Express





GALAXY EXPRESS

INVADE AMERICA

By Tobey Owen

"There are no risks, We're the only risk! We're going to get wild and have a lot of fun on our tour. We can't wait for it to start."

One of the country's best-loved indie acts, Seoul garage rockers Galaxy Express started off last year on a high note by winning Musicians of the Year at the 2011 Korean Music Awards. And from there things just seemed to get better and better.

In March 2011, the trio embarked on their first North American tour to play at the famed South by Southwest (SXSW) Music Conference and Festival in Austin, Texas and at Canadian Music Week in Toronto. In June, they performed in Tokyo as part of the Seoul-Tokyo Sound Bridge concert series and in August they returned to Japan to appear at one of Asia's top music fests, Summer Sonic. That month they also gigged throughout South Korea. In September, they opened for Linkin Park in Seoul. October saw them issuing a split EP with local punk legends Crying Nut entitled "Naughty Boy" and in November Galaxy Express released a remastered version of their 2008 full-length debut *Noise on Fire*.

Eager to keep building momentum, Galaxy Express will head back to the United States for two weeks in March. Committing to a second American tour was an easy decision.

"We knew we wanted to go to the U.S. again while we were in the middle of last year's tour," shares guitarist Park Jong-hyun. "We were given a good opportunity last year, but we need to keep doing more gigs in the U.S. if we want to really take advantage of it. We've been working hard over the last several months and have been saving money to help pay for the tour costs."



M U S I C

Galaxy Express

Galaxy Express

The band will depart on their second North American tour on March 5. Catch them in Seoul on March 3.



"We love jumping off amps and doing crazy things at gigs," says Park. "We played a daytime party on the patio of a place called Easy Tiger last year during SHSW. There was a really big rock just outside of the patio entrance. I jumped off the stage, ran past the entrance and climbed on top of the rock to play guitar. The club said I was the first person to ever do that."

On this jaunt, Park and his bandmates, bassist Lee Ju-hyun and drummer Kim Hee-kwon, will make another appearance at SXSW and will also do concerts at San Antonio's The Big Spill Festival and Arkansas' Valley of the Vapors Independent Music Festival.

"There's an amazing energy in Austin during SXSW," explains Park. "The event features 2,000 bands from 60 countries. There's music being played everywhere you go downtown. We met lots of great people there last year. It was great being surrounded by so many music lovers eager to discover new bands."

Along with exposing different audiences to their infectious blend of rock 'n' roll, punk, and psychedelic sounds, Galaxy Express also got to experience some different things while they were at SXSW 2011.

"We went to a place called Hippie Hollow in Austin," says a grinning Park. "It's a clothing optional park next to a lake. Hee-kwon was too shy to strip down, but Ju-hyun and I got naked and went swimming. It was the middle of March so the water was very cold. We thought there would be lots of young people there, but it was all old men and women."

Formed in 2006 by Park and Lee, Galaxy Express' raucous concerts helped them attract attention early on. At shows, the pair jump, dance, fall to their knees, and have been known to play their instruments with their teeth. It's also not uncommon to see Park climb on top of Lee's shoulders while they bang out noisy anthems.

"We love jumping off amps and doing crazy things at gigs," says Park. "We played a daytime party on the patio of a place called Easy Tiger last year during SXSW. There was a really big rock just outside of the patio entrance. I jumped off the stage, ran past the entrance and climbed on top of the rock to play guitar. The club said I was the first person to ever do that."

"Because I was standing on the rock, people could see me playing from the street, so that was a lot of fun. I don't remember exactly why I did it. I think I just looked up in the middle of our set, saw the big rock and thought, 'Hey I can climb up on that.'"

Galaxy Express' all-out rock 'n' roll will help them gain a following on their Stateside dates and future overseas jaunts as they continue to establish themselves internationally.

"Last year we toured the U.S. with two other Korean bands," says Park. "There were guides and translators on the tour to help all the groups. This year we will be touring the U.S. on our own. It's been more work to organize things by ourselves. There are more risks, too, because of the costs and possible language problems."

"There are no risks," chimes in Lee with a laugh. "We're the only risk! We're going to get wild and have a lot of fun on our tour. We can't wait for it to start."



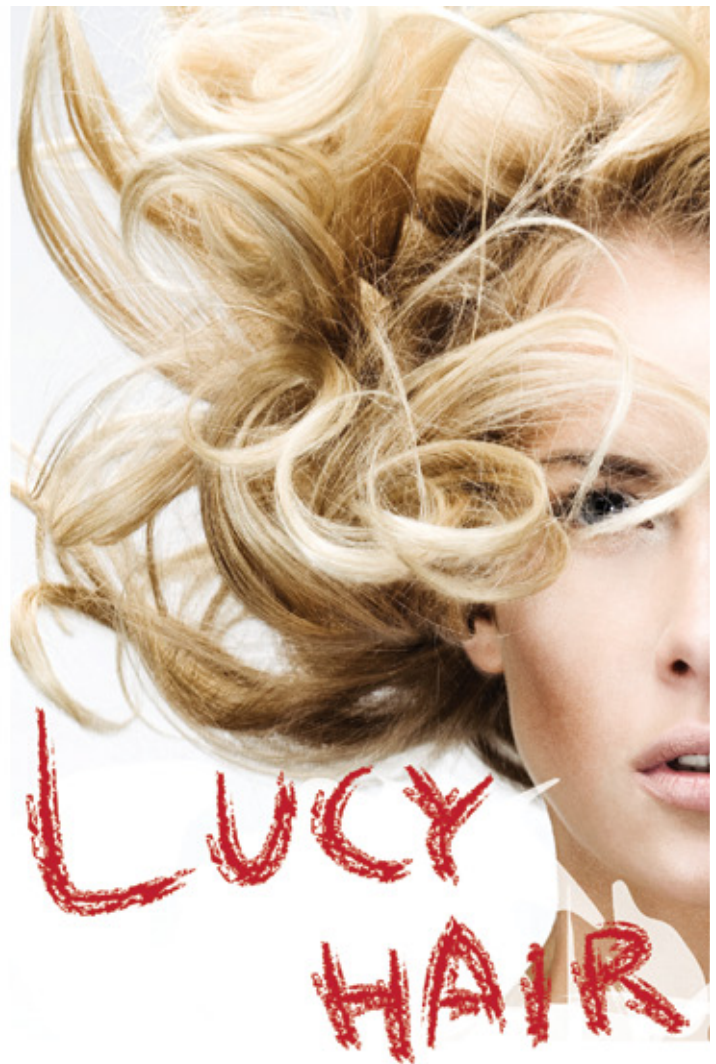
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Nothing to Declare but one's Genius

By Christina Murphy

"The only thing we cover is our gigantic brass balls. People who hear us for the first time seem to like 'Pretty Girl,' but I don't know (what our best song is). They are all short and loud — like most of my girlfriends."

"Genius means douchebag, scumbag. But we wanna be geniuses," explained Kim Il-du, guitarist and lead singer of the Busan-based indie-rock band Genius.

Three years ago, American expat drummer Lee Chung-mok watched a band called Na-bongkkundeul at a popular expat bar called The Basement, near the PNU area of Busan.

"They were the coolest band I'd ever seen. Never did I imagine that they would let me play drums with them. But they did," Lee said.

Lee still plays with the guitarist, lead vocalist and the enigmatic veteran Kim. They've lasted through band name changes and member changes and have finally settled down as Ge-

nius, with American bassist and vocalist Steve C for the last year and a half.

They are currently working on songs for their new album. In concert, one can expect to be treated to 100 percent original songs. They don't even cover songs from their previous bands.

"The only thing we cover is our gigantic brass balls," Steve claimed. "People who hear us for the first time seem to like 'Pretty Girl,' but I don't know (what our best song is). They are all short and loud — like most of my girlfriends."

Their music is a mix of indie and rock with a hint of punk. It boasts a sense of anarchy that even the Sex Pistols might admire.

Although based in Busan and accustomed

to playing in the usual music haunts that the city has to offer — such as The Basement and Vinyl Underground — Genius are a familiar face at Hongdae's Club FF and have plans to hit up more cities around Korea. Wherever they're invited, they will perform.

Near term plans include recording an album, continuing to play around Korea, and to keep enjoying themselves. "Magic is happening in the future," Steve said.

"I certainly hope so!" added Lee.

All in all, Genius are talented, fun and entertaining. Certainly worth a listen.

For more information, you can find Genius on Facebook.



Folking Kim Il-Du

By Christina Murphy

The solo album contains songs in both English and Korean and not only has all the right fixings of a Korean folk album with clear influences of Kim Min-ki, but also the same haunting notes reminiscent of the late, great Kim Kwang-seok.

The enigmatic but no-nonsense folk singer Kim Il-du has been around the Busan music scene for years. Currently, guitarist and lead singer of Genius, Kim is also an adept solo performer.

Last month saw the release of a remastered version of one of his earlier solo albums "SUSPENS," and a split album with Ha Heon-jin.

The solo album contains songs in both English and Korean and not only has all the right fixings of a Korean folk album with clear influences of Kim Min-ki, but also the same haunting notes reminiscent of the late, great Kim Kwang-

seok. Yet there remains a kick of attitude that is definitely uniquely Kim Il-du. The feisty song "Thanksgiving" is catchy enough to stay in your head for hours. But be warned: In a span of just two-and-a-half minutes, Kim curses a whopping 17 times.

His songs are set in a world of simple joys and flawed people simply trying to laugh their way through tragedy. When asked during a radio interview what his song "Watching TV" was about, he replied, "Watching TV."

"I want to be simple and normal," he explained when asked about his music. It seems

he plays for the love of playing.

His album is currently available through indie label Momossi Music in addition to his split album with Ha Heon-jin. It is available at hyang-music.com.

While Kim continues to play both solo and with Genius, he adds, "I don't know what lies ahead for us, but I can guess: We can have fun, even if we are poor."

For more information, updates, and a listen of his music, find Kim Il-du on Facebook.



SPRING CONCERTS

Pg. Lost
Pictureplane
Blonde Redhead
By Nigel Gillis

Super Color Super is a collective of artists and musicians organizing concerts and helming creative initiatives. Bringing a variety of local and overseas talent together in Korea for the past two years, it has grown into an internationally-recognized indie booking agency, applauded for its efforts to put on concerts with lower ticket prices. Most recently, the collective organized a stunning show with Mogwai, which brought some 1,300 fans to Seoul's AX Hall.

SUPER COLOR SUPER's KILLER Spring Concerts

By Nigel Gillis



Blonde Redhead - Blonde Redhead are renowned for their transitory noise rock to psychedelic and nu-gaze.

► Blonde Redhead

Late last month Super Color Super announced – to the surprise and delight of indie rockers across Korea – that it had booked legendary American alternative rock band Blonde Redhead to play in Seoul this upcoming May.

Renowned for their transitory noise rock to psychedelic and nu-gaze stylings and long-spanning music career (the band formed in New York in 1993), Blonde Redhead's arrival in Korea will, without doubt, be pleasantly received by a wide range of music enthusiasts. Those less-acquainted with the dreamy genius of Blonde Redhead may recognize the band's track "23" off its eponymous album, which made appearances in several hit television series and a handful advertisements a few years back.

The highly-anticipated tour of Blonde Redhead in Korea is further proof of the growing international indie music scene, one which has really caught on among Korean enthusiasts in the past few years. This momentous tour is a must-see for fans of Sonic Youth, Warpaint, Asobi Seksu, Smashing Pumpkins and Electrelane.

Pg.Lost channels epic notions of cloudbursts and miracles while grounding itself in a painful sincerity, not unlike a beam of light slouching towards a collapsing star.

► **Pg.Lost**

Sweden's Pg.Lost is post-rock for the cure. Their sound is one of textured euphony; forming melancholic soundscapes laced with guitar resonance and punctuated with cannon fire. An "orchestra of the heart," their music evokes personal narratives and similar kinds of magic. Formed in 2004, Pg.Lost has led an active existence, releasing two EPs and two LPs, with their highly-anticipated third album, *Key*, announced for May of this year. Their delicate tracks emit something special for all listeners. From a medium built on subtle introductions and fortified with adrenaline emerges a fantastic, melodiously unholy racket; Pg.Lost channels epic notions of cloudbursts and miracles while grounding itself in a painful sincerity, not unlike a beam of light slouching towards a collapsing star.

From April 2 to 8, Pg.Lost will launch an unprecedented six-city tour of South Korea, resounding across the country and appeasing the post-rock constituent – perhaps for the first time since Mogwai's earth-shattering tour back in November – and undoubtedly capturing new fans along the way. With vibrant live shows accompanied by nostalgic on-stage visuals, audiences will not be disappointed by this Scandinavian ensemble. Pg.Lost is highly recommended for fans of Explosions in the Sky, Mogwai, Sigur Rós, Mono and Godspeed You! Black Emperor.



► **Pictureplane**

Based in the underground scene of Denver, Colorado, Travis Egedy, a.k.a. Pictureplane, straddles an eclectic range of genres that includes synthpop, electro rock, chill-wave and witch house. Initially gaining reception for his prodigious remixes in the stylings of Health and Crystal Castles, Egedy has in recent years been an active member of the notorious Lovepump United music collective. Overall, he has had what can only be described as a prolific music career; having released seven albums since 2004, his latest, *Real is a Feeling* (2011), recently received accolades from Pitchfork and Stereogum, ranking it among the best albums of the year.

Past Pictureplane shows indicate a generous helping of psychedelic visuals accompanied by unlikely but masterful samplings (tracks from the original 1994 *Pure Moods* compilation have made a few cameos). Those fortunate enough to be attending his shows will embark on an electronic journey that will weave through various dimensions and make several scenic touchdowns, ultimately culminating in a collective memory likened to waking up at your own birthday party. Pictureplane is prescribed for all concert partygoers, especially for fans of HEALTH, Grimes, Crystal Castles, Indian Jewelry and SALEM.



S C H E D U L E

► **Pg.Lost**

April 3: Tue.
Cheonan - Dolce
April 4: Wed.
Gwangju - Speakeasy
April 5: Thur.
Daegu Urban
April 6: Fri.
Busan Rockhouse
April 7: Sat.
Seoul - TBA
April 8: Sun.
Daejeon Cantina

► **Pictureplane**

April 11:
Gwangju Bubble Bar, 10 p.m.
April 12:
Daegu Urban, 10 p.m.
April 13:
Busan - Almost Famous 10 p.m.
April 14:

► **Blonde Redhead**

May 4: Fri.
Seoul - AX Hall

For interview inquiries or press passes e-mail super-colorsuper@gmail.com.



Based in the underground scene of Denver, Colorado, Travis Egedy, a.k.a. Pictureplane, straddles an eclectic range of genres that includes synthpop, electro rock, chill-wave, and witch house.

LEWIS
ANTHONY

This is a column dedicated to electronic music in Korea. Our aim is to give Groove Korea readers interviews and updates on what is happening on the peninsula. Feel free to contact the links below for information on clubs, DJs and events!

LEWIS ANTHONY: TALES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Photos by Dylan Goldby

Lewis Anthony is a mainstay as far as DJs go in Korea. He's been producing on and off for the last eight years, but it's only within the last year that he's been pushing stuff out to labels. "I spent a lot of time trying to distinguish what it was I wanted to create music-wise. I didn't want to rush into it. I wanted to thoroughly explore the whole spectrum of electronic music," Anthony said.

According to his online bio, Anthony aims to take electronic music aficionados on a sense-assaulting journey of long and textbook musical transitions through driving twists and turns – with a few ups and downs along the way.

Following is the rest of Groove Korea's interview with the talented DJ/producer.



Read more on our website: groovekorea.com. Check us out on facebook and twitter for free stuff.

Lewis Anthony aims to take electronic music aficionados on a sense-assaulting journey of long and textbook musical transitions through driving twists and turns — with a few ups and downs along the way. His passion for music and exploration has taken him all over the world: from Europe, to America, to Asia. Today, he resides in Seoul, Korea.

INTERVIEW

What is your definition of a DJ?

A DJ is a person who tells a story with music. In order to tell a story well, a DJ is somebody who has to have an unparalleled passion for the music that they play. They have to continually evolve their sets to create new chapters.

Who has influenced you the most?

The people who have influenced me the most are the ones who kindled my passion for electronic music. The mammoth sets I used to witness by John Digweed in England, as well as the mix compilations he put together with Sasha, are really what whet my appetite. Also, the lesser-known Jonathan Lisle was a huge influence. He was a very technically gifted DJ who could put together the intricate elements of electronic music effortlessly to create something magical.

What is your latest release?

My latest release is an EP called Flatpack. There are two tracks: "Galant" and "Vika Amon." "Galant" is a deep tune with grooving percussion and repetitive synths. "Vika Amon" is a deep, hypnotizing and building tune. They complement each other very well on the EP.

Where can one purchase your music?

My music can be purchased at many of the large online music stores including, Beatport, Juno Download, DJ Download and iTunes.

What were your impressions when you first arrived in Korea?

When I first arrived in Korea, my first impression was that I was going to have to search for the music I was interested in. This was fine with me. It was what I liked to do. There were a few clubs, but I wanted a place that focused on the music rather than the décor. That place was Joker Red. Unfortunately it closed down last year. I was fortunate enough to hold down a residency there.

How has living here influenced your sound?

I wouldn't say living here has necessarily influenced my sound, but it has helped it become more refined. I've become more determined to create something off the beaten track.

Is it difficult to manage your own bookings?

Managing my own bookings means I have total control. There are no commitments. I can do things in my own time. So no, it's not difficult.

What's your most memorable experience behind the decks?

One experience that stands out for me actually came about by chance. One Sunday morning, in the early hours, I turned up at an after-hours club to check out one of my friends who was playing there. I still had my records on me after playing a gig on the other side of the city, and I was asked to fill in for somebody who couldn't make it. The place exploded as soon as I pressed play on the first track, and I didn't get off the decks until 9:30 a.m.

Who are your favorite DJs on the peninsula?

There are a lot of talented DJs in Korea. East Collective was one of the first acts I encountered. Mang and Unjin, the guys who make up East Collective, are good friends of mine and have done really well outside of Korea. The Sequential crew, Andy & Stu and Raico, were the first guys I played with here in Korea. They are all talented DJs who know a great deal about electronic music.

How would you define underground music?

The genres of electronic music have become so convoluted these days that so much is considered underground. I think the scene has gone in two directions of late. In one direction you have the popular scene where you can see a lot of crossover into the mainstream. In the other direction you have the underground scene. Underground music is music out of mainstream culture.

What changes would you like to see in the scene?

I would like to see more clubs in Korea taking risks with the types of music that they play. There isn't much variety between an ever-growing number of clubs. Not to write off the scene here, however, there are a few places that are willing to take a chance with underground music. And those select few really make the scene quite special and diverse.

Why do you continue to play out?

I continue to play out because I want to give something to people. I want to give them the opportunity to listen to something different and innovative. If they like what they hear, they can come and listen again. If they don't, then there is no obligation. Fortunately, I always receive a lot of positive feedback when I do play out, so that keeps me going.



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At Trevia, a couple can have pizza and drinks for under 30,000 won.

The changing of Noksapyeong-daero

By Josh Foreman • Photos by Melissa Hubley

Istanbul, Thunder Burger, Namsan Kimchi Jjigae. RIP. You are missed.

They were fixtures on Noksapyeong-daero for years, but they are no more. Anyone who ever had a bowl of Namsan Jjigae is probably still lamenting the loss of that Yongsan staple – that kimchi was just... something special. The good news is new and different restaurants have come along to take the places of those that left, and some of them are pretty good. Here's a look at three newcomers to Noksapyeong-daero, the short street that connects Haebangchon and Gyeongnidan with Itaewon.

Their pizzas are Roman style — the thin, crispy dough comes out of the oven literally smoking hot.

Trevia

02-794-6003

1.



1. Trevia's toque-clad chefs know how to make Roman-style pizza.

2. The "fresh mozzarella" pizza is covered with romaine lettuce and unmelted cheese.

2.



With its wood floors and furniture, matte gray walls, and simple wire fixtures, this pizzeria is as artfully decorated as its pizza is constructed. Maybe the best restaurant to move onto Noksapyeong-daero – well, ever – Trevia is legit.

Trevia pizzas are made with dough that has been left to proof for 48 hours before baking. It's oblong and thin – more like Indian naan than the pizza dough most are familiar with. Their pizzas are Roman style – the thin, crispy

dough comes out of the oven literally smoking hot. It's brushed with a little tomato sauce and covered with mozzarella. With a few basil leaves, it becomes Margherita. Of course, Trevia has more Korean twists on the Italian staple: bulgogi, shrimp or sweet potato.

The most impressive slice served up at Trevia is the "fresh mozzarella." It's loaded with romaine lettuce, cherry tomatoes and chunks of fluffy, unmelted mozzarella cheese, drizzled with olive oil. The "quattro formaggio" pizza is

topped with brie, gouda, gorgonzola and mozzarella. The owner, Hwang In-suk, studied the art of pizza-making in Italy, and it shows.

Trevia also does lasagna, mozzarella salads and panini sandwiches. They have a small deli section, where they sell Italian cheeses, sausages, olives and capers. They sell pizza by the slice (5,500 – 6,300 won) and by the whole pizza (16,500 – 18,900 won). A whole pizza is more than enough for a couple. Trevia also serves Italian beer and wine.

M Burger

02-797-2787

3.



4.

5.



Maybe the only place in Korea where you can get a "Juicy Lucy," M Burger is a solid addition to the list of burger joints in and around Itaewon. Owner Michael Ahn has done his best to make M Burger a funky, cozy spot to enjoy a big burger. The restaurant is decorated with bits of Americana – a stainless tub of Miller Genuine Draft here, a vintage sign there ("Take-out food service – you may place your order with mom."). The kitchen is partially ex-

posed, so you can watch the chefs fry up your burger on their massive griddle.

Now back to that Juicy Lucy. It's one of their custom burgers, and its defining feature is cheese – are you ready for this? – inside the burger patty. It's the burger equivalent of stuffed-crust pizza. We didn't try it, opting instead for a chili burger and a plain cheeseburger. Both were hefty, but the chili burger was almost like two meals in one. By

the time I'd finished eating it, a little pool of bean-choked chili had gathered on my plate. The best things about the burgers at M are the soft buns, baked for them by nearby Mira Bakery, and the fat onions that sit on the patties. The onions are cooked on the griddle until they're caramelized.

M Burger also has fries, onion rings, draft beer and a whole fridge of Red Bull. Burger sets are priced at 11,000 – 14,000 won.

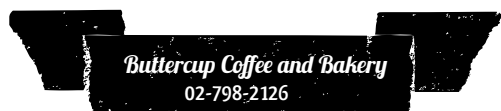
It's one of their custom burgers, and its defining feature is cheese — are you ready for this? — inside the burger patty.

3. The chili burger at M Burger comes loaded with bean-choked chili and jalapenos on the side.

4. The restaurant specializes in big, American-style burgers.

5. They have all the fixings, too.

Une served us the coffee in an oversized red mug. The thick foam on top had been sculpted into a rabbit's face (her favorite animal).



6. Une, the 22-year-old server at Buttercup Coffee and Bakery, adds a special touch to the cupcakes and coffee there.

Buttercup is the best kind of coffee shop – comfortable and quirky, with some really good coffee. The 22-year-old Une brews espresso there with aplomb, decorating the brown cr ma on top of each cup with little animal faces. Buttercup has some seriously good-sounding drinks on the menu, along with some seriously odd-sounding ones. Chief among the good-sounding drinks is the maple latte. We tried one, and it was as good as it sounds – sweet and rich, with a subtle maple-syrup taste. Une served us the coffee in an oversized red mug. The thick foam on top had been sculpted into a rabbit's face (her favorite animal).

Then there are the odd-sounding drinks, such as "coffee-ade." Apparently it is espresso mixed with carbonated water or cider (the sweet, fizzy kind).

Sounds interesting, but I think I'll stick with the maple latte.

Buttercup is decorated with all kinds of random knickknacks: cat statues, German beer steins, a little carousel and ethnically ambiguous baby dolls. One wall of the place is covered with screen shots from various movies and concerts. On another is a framed painting of a Pok mon-like creature. Soft Korean ballads play in the background. The place is so small you'll feel like you're sharing a living room with friends while you sip your drink.

Buttercup also has cupcakes in interesting flavors. We tried a mint chocolate one. It came to the table with a tall candle sticking out of it. I don't know why Une put it there, but now I don't know why all bakeries don't do it. That combined with the rabbit face just gave me a special feeling.



GETTING THERE

Trevia, M Burger and Buttercup Coffee and Bakery are all located on Noksapyeong-daero, the short street between Gyeongnidan and Itaewon. To get there, go out Noksapyeong Station, exit 2, and cross the street.



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Cambodian Cuisine

Recipe & Directions for making Amok

Discovering Khmer cuisine

By Elaine Knight • Photos by Ryan Noel

"Their cameras could not stop clicking. With fish jumping off cutting boards, chickens being plucked, snails baking in the sun, and various exotic fruits, herbs and vegetables on display, it was a lively scene."



Tasting a cuisine at the source is an exhilarating experience that stimulates all senses. It doesn't get any better than eating food made by experts on home soil. Local ingredients picked at their prime, dishes cooked in season by someone who learned them from his or her grandma and has been cooking them for years – what more can you ask for? So, when I travel, I make it a point to not only eat (a lot), but also learn how local dishes are made. A recent trip opened my eyes and stomach to a whole new world of what I would call "bodastic (bodacious + fantastic) fusion cuisine," or as others would call it, Cambodian food.

We wanted to fully experience Cambodian – or Khmer – food on our trip, so we asked our hotel clerk to help us find a cooking school. She

recommended "Cooks in Tuk Tuks," a class being taught at the River Garden Hotel in Siem Reap. The class included a trip to a local wet market, training in Khmer techniques and a hearty meal of traditional Khmer dishes.

The highlight of the class was our Chef Instructor Soun Saroun, who is a graduate of the Sala Bai Hotel and Restaurant School (operated by a French non-profit offering impoverished Cambodians free one-year training in cooking, serving, bartending and front office management). Saroun

Fresh herbs are pounded into a paste that serves as the base for dishes.



was kind, cheerful, friendly and knowledgeable.

The trip to the wet market was good but nothing new for me. As a child I used to go to the wet market in the Philippines every day, having been raised at the hip of my Visayan grandmother. It was interesting to see the similarities between the Khmer women and my grandmother. My grandmother did it because that was how she was raised in the Visayas, where there were no refrigerators – or electricity for that matter – much the same as it is in modern-day Cambodia for many. The other students in the class, which was very small with only four students, found the wet market tour a blast. Their cameras could not stop clicking.



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Cambodian Cuisine

Recipe & Directions for making Amok

Amok is enlivened by flavors of citrus, cream, sweetness and heat.



With fish jumping off cutting boards, chickens being plucked, snails baking in the sun, and various exotic fruits, and herbs and vegetables on display, it was a lively scene. We shopped for the ingredients we needed for the dishes we were cooking and were enlightened by our chef.

On to the River Garden Hotel, to cook. I had to fight the mosquitoes (Normal for nearly anywhere in Cambodia, so bring insect repellent!) but after pounding my herbs and slicing away the banana flower hearts and other veggies I began to appreciate the fusion of flavors we were creating. A heavy mix of spices and coconut permeated everything. There were elements of Thai, Indian, and Malay cuisine, but the end result was completely "Khmer."

We began our culinary expedition with a salad of banana

flowers and fresh greens drizzled with a Khmer dressing also made during the class. The dish took a back seat when we began preparing "amok," the national dish. It was heavenly; the mixture of spices, coconut, and fish was an incredibly satisfying intersection of creamy, citrus, and sweet, yet a touch of spicy flavors amplified the meatiness of the dish while keeping it light. Having tried the same dish at several of the better restaurants in Siem Reap, Saroun's interpretation was the hands-down winner. It captured the essence and beauty of the whole region. To accompany this delightful dish, we made some surprisingly simple hibiscus tea. The striking pink hue of the tea felt exotic despite the fact (as we learned) that hibiscus provides only the color; the sweetness comes from syrup.

GK

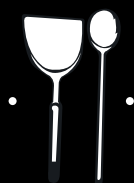
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In all, the shopping, the chef, the lesson, and the food captured the best of Cambodia, the Khmer People, and their cuisine in a single experience.

Last came a dessert made with sweet potato, tapioca balls and coconut milk. Similar in many ways to some desserts of the Philippines, this dish again reminded me of my childhood. It was satisfyingly sweet and

creamy without the addition of sugar or syrup. Yummy.

In all, the shopping, the chef, the lesson, and the food captured the best of Cambodia, the Khmer People, and their cuisine in a single experience.



Amok (Serves 4 to 6)

Ingredients:

- 1 kg chicken, boneless white fish or tofu
- 100g cabbage or spinach
- Khmer spice mix – "Kroeung" – to taste (recipe below)
- 200g lemon grass stalks, trimmed, remove outer leaves and chop
- 100g galangal (or ginger)
- 2 teaspoons Turmeric (recommend fresh but powdered will be okay)
- 100g /4 cloves of garlic
- 100g shallots
- 6 dried red chilis
- 4 Kaffir (Lime) leaves – ribs removed
- Amok mix (recipe below)
- 3 tablespoon fish Sauce
- 100g palm sugar
- 225 ml thick coconut milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chicken stock

Directions:

- Roughly cut the Kroeung-Khmer Spice mix and pound it in a mortar (or in a blender or food processor) until pasty. (Tip: Add a touch of water so the ingredients bind and blend better. Also, this mix can keep for up to a week in the refrigerator and longer in a freezer.)
- Clean the fish or chicken, slice into cubes and set aside.
- Make the Amok mix.
- Add the Kroeung-Khmer spice mix to your protein and mix well.
- In a wok or pan (high heat), add the Amok mix and the protein. Cook for three to five minutes. Add the cabbage or spinach. Let it come to a boil and lower the temperature to a simmer for another three to five minutes.
- Enjoy.

Class Information

Name: Cooks in Tuk Tuks, Adventure in Classic Khmer Cuisine
Address: The River Garden Hotel, 113 Mondul 111 Treang Village Slorkrum, Siem Reap, Cambodia
Phone: +855-063-963-400
email: info@therivergarden.info
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A soothing punch for the broken-hearted

By Paloma Julian

Photo by The Dinner Series

February is gone. Love is no longer in the air. Life is moving along, and suddenly one of my friends sends me an email: "What's the best drink for a broken heart?" After considering several options (the cheapest cocktail? the beer nearest my hands?), I try to put myself in her shoes (not difficult at all) and provide her with a good answer. Sartre, the French philosopher, said that happiness is not doing what you want but wanting what you do. I know my friend really wants a good answer, so I put my hands to work, write her an invitation to my house, and start creating an uplifting cocktail.

Yes, it's time for a drink, and it's called Agua de Valencia, or Mimosa's Cousin.

The legend goes that the mimosa was created for the Ritz-Carlton in Paris. Who knows? But I have to give credit to the French for always inventing the most glamorous back-stories for their culinary concoctions. The Agua de Valencia isn't that fancy. It was created in 1959 in a coffee shop called "Café de Madrid" in Valencia, as the result of a bet between the owner of the café and some of its patrons. Valencia is a city by the Mediterranean, and it's also the area that produces more oranges than anywhere in Europe. With that in mind, it's kind of shocking that it wasn't until the 60s that they decided to create a cocktail with the resource of this sunny land.

"OMG," (that was the first line of my message to my friend; I am using it again because I just found out she'll be here in an hour!) I just realized that I haven't said what the soul of the cocktail is: cava (the Spanish version of champagne), orange juice, vodka and gin.

I am running out of time; so let me tell you how to make it:

AQUA DE VALENCIA

Ingredients:

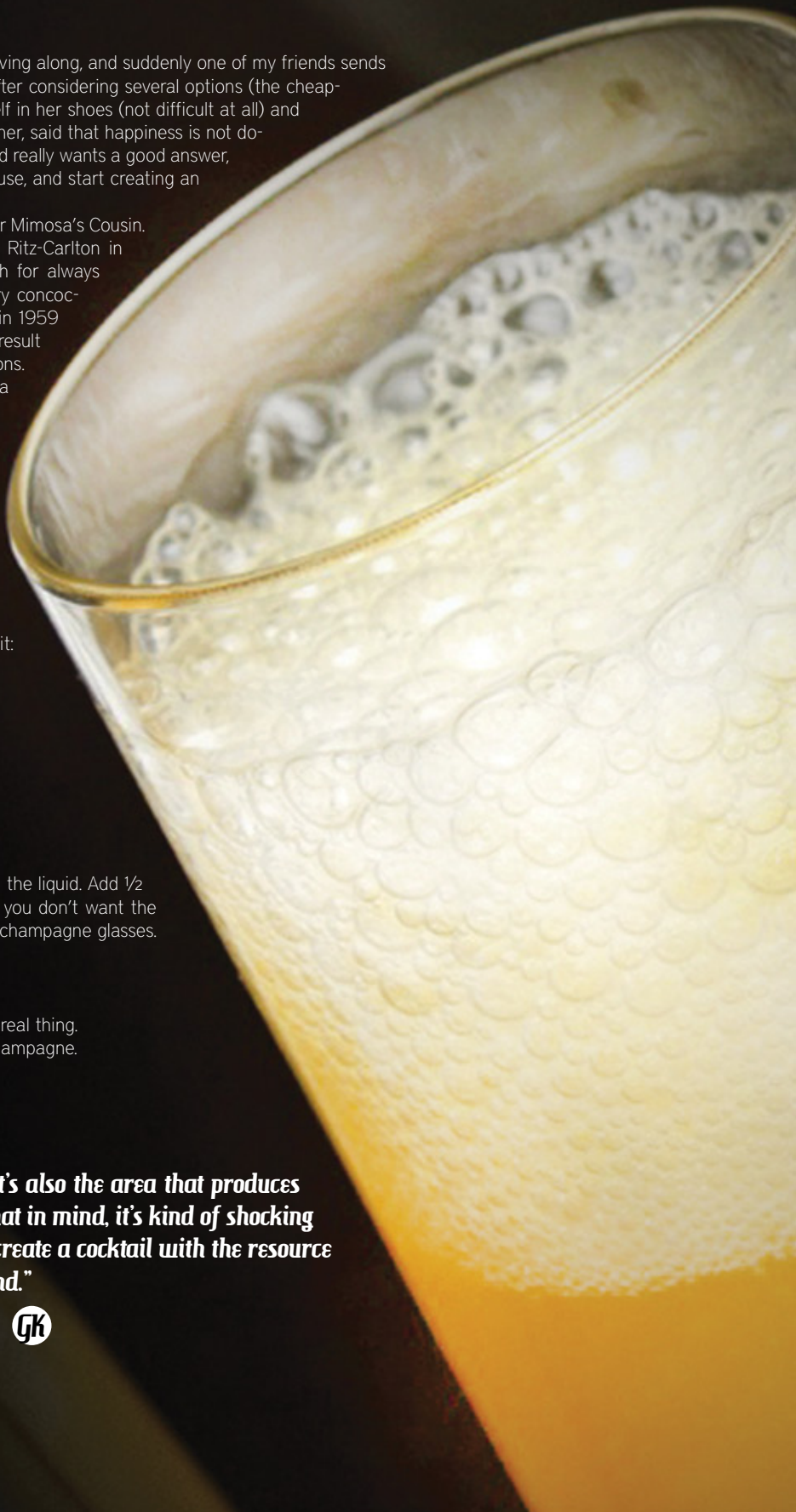
½ liter of orange juice
½ bottle of cava or champagne
60 ml of vodka
60 ml of gin
1 cocktail spoon of sugar

Stir with spoon until you see that the sugar has dissolved in the liquid. Add ½ a bottle of cava or champagne, and stir smoothly because you don't want the cocktail to lose the fizz. Keep it in the fridge and serve it in champagne glasses. And now some tips for making it even better:

- It is better to use seasonal fruit.
- Don't use orange liqueur; it isn't a good substitute for the real thing.
- If you would like it dry, don't add sugar, use a brut cava-champagne.
- Make the cocktail in advance, and cool it until it's frosty.

Salud! Cheers!

"Valencia is a city by the Mediterranean, and it's also the area that produces more oranges than anywhere in Europe. With that in mind, it's kind of shocking that it wasn't until the 60s that they decided to create a cocktail with the resource of this sunny land."



A match made in the stew pot

By Read Urban

Photo by Gina Argentina

I missed Korean food. Being away from the Land of the Morning Calm intensified my love for all things pickled, preserved and enriched with pork fat. My family at home looked confused when I tried to explain my cravings. Once Korean cuisine gets a hold of you, it doesn't let go. It weaves its magic slowly, then holds on tight. I have it bad. I have the itch and I'm not ashamed. On the long plane ride back I had one thing on my mind: kimchi jjigae.

The first day back I dove head first into a steaming bowl of jjigae. I had been craving the blissful union of pork and kimchi, simmering away in a hot bowl. It got me thinking about soups and stews (something I admittedly do most days.) In the Western canon of cooking, pork doesn't show up often as a key ingredient in soups. Pork stock can become greasy if not looked after, as well as have a strong presence in a final dish. I can get a jjigae whenever I like now, so I wanted to focus this month on something a little more Western.

I started playing around with pork in soups after an old restaurant co-worker became obsessed with the combination of sausage and barley. Moving to Korea had a significant effect as well, seeing as pork is cheap and barley is plentiful. I started toying with the idea of pork and barley stew. Lamb and barley is a classic soup, something that reminds me of cold winters in Virginia and leftover lamb shoulder. I wanted something different but simple, with those two ingredients working together in harmony.

Pork and barley. Two cheap, readily available ingredients in Korea. They play off each other extremely well (something Korea needs to get on soon). Chewy barley soaks up the unctuous pork broth, thickening it to a stew. Spiced with thyme, black pepper, fennel, and coriander, it conjures up fresh Italian sausage. The pork needs to cook slowly for a while so the meat is tender and not dried out. The prep is simple, and you should be able to find pork ready for jjigae at the market. Don't worry about the fatty pieces; chuck it all in there to add some depth of texture and flavor. Serve it with a light salad dressed simply to cut through the richness and this stew will grab hold of you and not let go.

PORK AND BARLEY SOUP

Ingredients:

- 200 grams of pork (prepped for Korean-style jjigae)
- 1/4 cup of barley
- 1 medium sized onion, diced
- 1/2 a large (Korean sized) carrot, diced
- 2 stalks of celery, diced
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) of diced tomatoes, drained
- 6 oz of your favorite wheat beer (I use Scheinderweisse)
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1/2 tablespoon thyme
- 1/2 tablespoon fennel seed, crushed
- 1/2 tablespoon ground coriander
- Salt & freshly ground coarse black pepper



PORK AND BARLEY SOUP

Directions:

Place a medium-sized pot over medium-high heat. In the pot, brown the pork on all sides in the olive oil. Remove the pork from the pot and add the onion, carrot and celery. Season with salt and pepper. Turn down the heat to medium and sauté for three to four minutes (until softened). Add the garlic, thyme, fennel and coriander. Sauté for another two to three minutes. Stir in the tomatoes and place the pork back into the pot. Deglaze with the beer, scraping up any brown bits stuck to the bottom of the pot. Cover the pork and vegetables with water and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and let the pork cook for one-and-a-half to two hours. Stir occasionally and refill with stock or water if it reduces too much. When the pork is tender, stir in the barley (make sure to rinse it quickly in water to remove some of the starch). Let the barley cook for 15 to 20 minutes, or until tender but not overcooked (you still want some bite to it). Season with salt and pepper to taste.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Expat Apartment Project



BEN & CHRISTINA



AARON

It captures a diverse range of foreign residents, hailing from several continents and distinct cultures, each in their own most intimate environment – their apartment.

Before I began The Expat Apartment Project with Anthony Dell'Ario, I assumed every expat lived in a carbon copy shoebox-size apartment, much like I had my first three years in Korea. While this is still the case for many teachers, I was surprised when I discovered that most apartments turned out to be just as diverse as the expats living in them. I have friends in, or near Seoul whom I have known for years, yet have been to their homes only once or twice. We meet for dinner and drinks at a subway stop in between – as I'm sure most foreigners do – because a 30 minute commute for both of us is more feasible than an hour commute for one. But what – or in some cases, who – do they go home to after we meet? And what makes it "home?"

As a transient nester myself, I am often drawn to the details of each expat apartment. I know firsthand how challenging it can be to turn an empty apartment into a comfy home every year or so. I am always the one at the airport check-in counter unzipping my luggage to take additional weight out of my checked baggage (to later stuff into my carry-on). I walked through security once carrying a queen size comforter (that would obviously not fit into my carry-on) hoping to fool everyone into thinking it was a pillow for the plane. Regardless of fooling anyone, my comforter made it to Seoul, and made my first officetel feel a little bit more like home.



ANDREW



JAMIE



SIMON & MARTINA



CASEY

The project explores and documents how foreigners, often arriving with (at most) two checked pieces of luggage and two carry-on pieces, not only try to align the traditional Korean-style living space into a home, but also what activities they engage in and find comfort with in the confines of their personal space.

I've lived in five apartments in my five years in Korea. After my first year, I stuffed everything I owned in the back of a taxi to move across town. After my second year, I wheeled two suitcases to the post-office and shipped everything I owned in four boxes back to America before I traipsed around Southeast Asia living out of a shoulder bag. During my sabbatical year back in the States, the idea that all of my possessions fit into four boxes was laughable. My shared Chicago apartment was quadruple the size of the now familiar officetel, and suddenly I was responsible for all of my inherited furniture that was being stored at my parents' house. After nine months, they were not happy when I announced I was moving. Again. Back to Seoul. My vintage gold couches – yes, that's plural – and everything I owned, minus what fit into my checked and carry-on luggage (and my queen size comforter) went back to my parents' house. I moved into a home where I could simultaneously cook dinner, take a shower, clean my bathroom, and do a load of laundry within arms reach. I'm not the only one who does this kind of apartment square dance. How does everyone else do it? What do they carry through airport security? Where do they go to escape that feeling of "foreign" and feel like they are home, despite being thousands of miles away from the familiar?



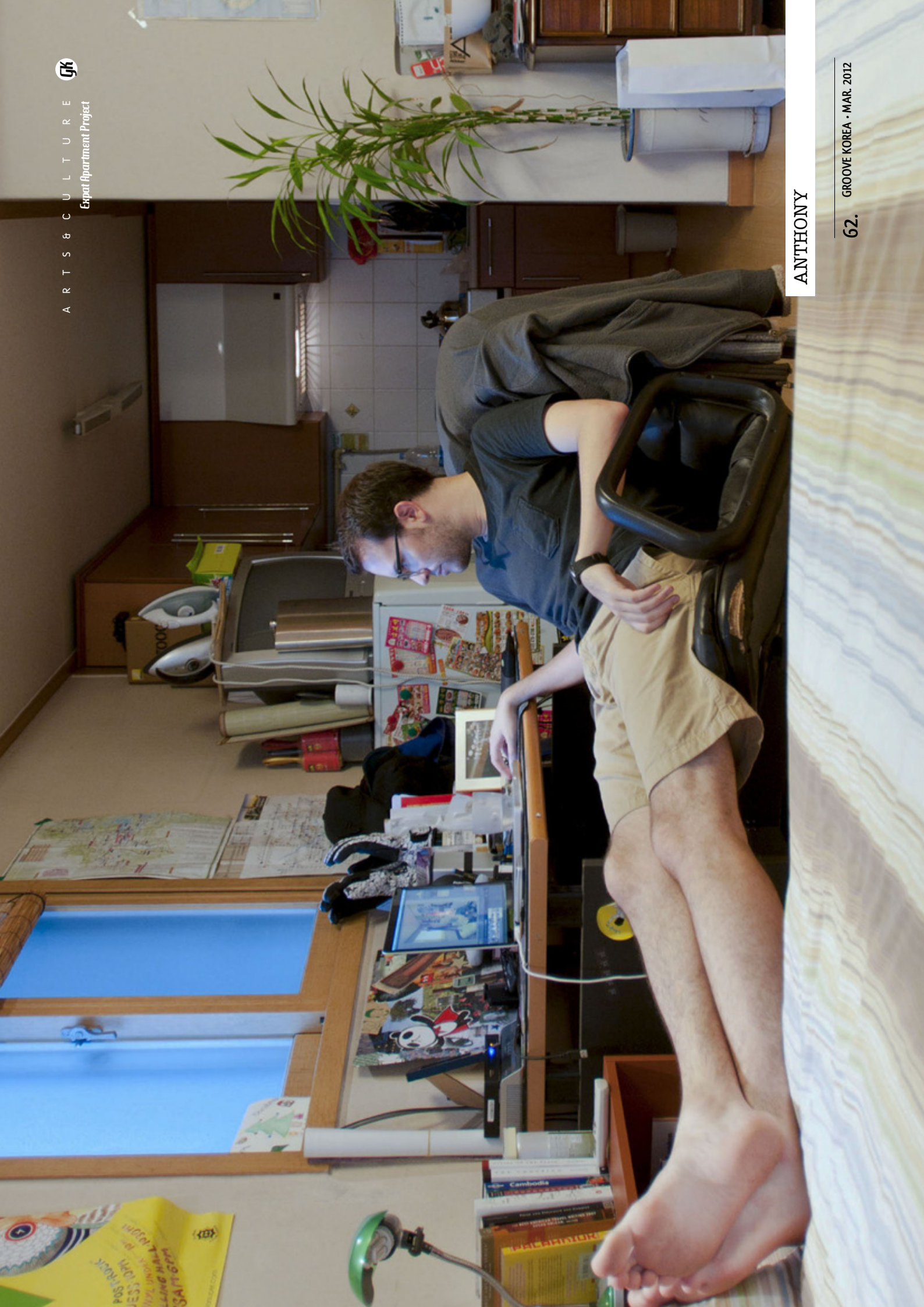
CLAIRE



EMILY & RICHARD



LEILA



ANTHONY



LEIGH

I photographed apartments with multiple rooms, several loft studios with huge open windows staring at least ten stories down to the Korean neon below, a gosiwon with three cats, a dog, and barely enough room to stand in between desk and bed. I often holed in on refrigerators and bookshelves as they unfailingly proved to be wide-open windows into each inhabitant. Some apartments have obvious reminders of where the tenant is from, where they have been, or what they have done in Korea. Zebra print reminded one South African of home. An empty North Korean bottle of soju from a trip to the DMZ sat next to a stack of burned DVDs. Photo booth strips covered one refrigerator. One doorknob held an NFL jersey with the same state's college colors on it. Some items held stories the inhabitant would share, while others made me smile knowing it held some significance to its owner.

The Expat Apartment Project began in 2010. This was Anthony and my second two-person exhibition; originally held at The Laughing Tree Lab in central Seoul in August of 2011. We will be exhibiting The Expat Apartment Project again this summer. It captures a diverse range of foreign residents, hailing from several continents and distinct cultures, each in their own most intimate environment – their apartment. The project explores and documents how foreigners, often arriving with (at most) two checked pieces of luggage and two carry-on pieces, not only try to align the traditional Korean-style living space into a home, but also what activities they engage in and find comfort with in the confines of their personal space. Be it cooking, seeing to simple household chores, checking Facebook, or taking a bath, we hoped to identify the diversity of the expat community in Seoul, while simultaneously pointing out that we are doing many of the same things we would back at “home.” With nearly 50 apartments exhibited in the show in August, we felt we achieved this goal.



ASHLEY

As a transient nester myself, I was often drawn to the details of each expat apartment. I know firsthand how challenging it can be to turn an empty apartment into a comfy home every year or so.

In anticipation of a continuation of this project that will lead me on a journey around the world, I have begun plans to expand this portrait to living spaces in the 25-plus countries I will visit as early as September. The primary goal of this project is to show how vastly different and/or remarkably similar homes are in different countries and their different residents across the globe, be it a three-story house in America, or a 20th floor single room officetel in Korea. What differing purposes do these spaces provide? Is it a place for friends to gather and play Wii, or is it a place to sleep, shower, and leave behind for 16 hours of the day? Which details set each home apart and reflect its inhabitant?

Until September, I will be photographing foreigners and native Koreans in their homes here in Korea while continuing to explore this theme and more fully fleshing out my portfolio. My goal is to publish a photo essay of a different home each week online at ThisKentuckyGirl.com. Please contact me at egroeschen@gmail.com if you're in Korea until September and would like to participate in this project.



HEATHER



Bringing 'Art' to Seoul

By Anna Sebel / Photos by Michele Farley

This spring White Box Theatre will be bringing "Art" to Seoul.

"By 'Art' I don't mean abstract paintings, sculptures or strange installations that leave the audience baffled," creative director of White Box, Desiree Munro said. Munro is referring to the Tony Award-winning comedy by French dramatist Yasmina Reza.

Indeed, the themes of the comedy verge on utter contempt for any form of art that could be described as pretentious or even abstract.

"The plot is simple," Munro explained. "A man buys a piece of art. A white canvas with a white line painted on it. The play then charts the different reactions of his friends when they learn he paid 100,000 euros for the piece."

"The plot is simple. A man buys a piece of art. A white canvas with a white line painted on it. The play then charts the different reactions of his friends when they learn he paid 100,000 euros for the piece."

Creative director of White Box, Desiree Munro

But don't let the simplistic story fool you. "Art," whilst on the surface is a light play of men behaving badly, is a comedy rich with themes that covers everything from friendship to abstract questions about what constitutes art and what value society should place on it.

Since its Broadway debut in 1998, the play

has been translated into numerous languages and has already been performed in Korea in both English and Korean.

In a further attempt to make the play accessible to all, White Box Theatre's production will be performed in English with Korean subtitles – a first for Seoul audiences.



Art is a comedy rich with themes that covers everything from friendship to abstract questions about what constitutes art and what value should society place on it.

"It's apparent from the numerous translations of this play that the comedy and themes are universal," translator Judy Kim explained. "I can't wait to see what a bilingual audience will make of it."

"Art" runs every Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Mar. Apr. Tickets are:
30 - 8 15.000 won

For bookings, a map to the theatre or any more information, got to :
www.probationarytheatre.com



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At the Box Office

by DEAN CRAWFORD

► March
29Action - Adventure
96 Minutes

WRATH OF THE TITANS (3D)

Directed by: Jonathan Liebesman

► March
15Drama - Action
84 minutes

CHRONICLE

Directed by: Josh Trank



P R E V I E W

February was a fabulous month for movies. Not only did we have monster hits such as Martin Scorsese's *Hugo* and Michel Hazanavicius's *The Artist*, but we were treated to surprises such as Joe Carnahan's *The Grey* and Tomas Alfredson's *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. I even enjoyed the *Ghost Rider* sequel! So with such a strong start to the year, the big question being asked was: Can this run continue? Well, with March's tent pole release being *Wrath of the Titans* – the answer appears to be no.

This might sound a little presumptuous, possibly even a little harsh, but if you were one of the many who were disappointed with *Clash of the Titans*, you will understand why I am less than excited for the sequel. *Wrath of the Titans* is set a decade after the violent climax in which Perseus (Sam Worthington) defeated the Kraken. Unable to forego his destiny and live a quiet life, Perseus embarks on a treacherous quest into the underworld to rescue Zeus (Liam Neeson), who has been targeted for capture by his traitorous son Ares (Edgar Ramirez) and his brother Hades (Ralph Fiennes).

To my surprise, the footage released so far looks pretty good. But then so did the trailer for *Clash of the Titans* which, despite the film grossing \$500 million worldwide, was still a huge disappointment. Poor dialogue, less than impressive acting and one of the worst uses of 3-D I have seen to date. Even lead actor Sam Worthington wasn't a fan of the film. "The first one I didn't like," he said. "I'm not playing a character. I'm playing a carbon-copy friggin' conduit that just goes on an action spree."

With Tarsem Singh's *Immortals* still fresh in the mind, *Wrath of the Titans* has a lot to live up to. What Singh's film may have lacked in dialogue, it certainly made up for with production design and epic fight scenes — plus the fact that it actually had some Titans! But if rumors are to be believed, the people behind the franchise admit there is room for improvement, and this time around they have chosen to shoot the film in 3-D rather than convert it later. After films like *Hugo* and dare I say it, *Transformers 3*, it shows that making the extra effort can pay dividends.

With new director Jonathan Liebesman of *Battle: LA*-fame and not to mention a fired up Sam Worthington on board, I think *Wrath of the Titans* could well be the improvement of the first film everyone is hoping for.

P R E V I E W

One of Mark Millar's latest character creations was an individual so highly advanced when it came to martial arts and all forms of weaponry that he could predict everyone else's moves before they even knew what they were doing themselves. No one knew his true identity. He was violent, brutal and he was the biggest criminal of our time. Essentially, in Mark Millar's graphic comic "Nemesis," Batman becomes the Joker. The novel tried to answer the question "What would happen if superpowers fell in the wrong hands?" and that is the same question that is being asked in Josh Trank's debut film *Chronicle*.

Chronicle follows three high school friends: Andrew (Dane DeHaan), Alex (Matt Garretty) and Steve (The Wire's Michael B. Jordan) who gain superpowers after making an incredible discovery. What at first seems like a gift turns into a curse as their friendship and minds are tested as they try to struggle with the temptation of turning to the dark side and using their powers as a force of evil.

Thematically, the film looks like an interesting prospect as most people at one time or another have thought about what superpower they would like to have and what they would do with it. In the movies, this scene is generally predictable and clichéd. A struggle ensues but the protagonist ultimately chooses the righteous path and uses the new-found powers for good. However, *Chronicle* shows the teens dealing with their powers in an interesting, yet real way; playing childish pranks and testing the limits of their powers. I am very interested to see how they show the development of each character, with one of the friends ultimately choosing a darker path, to see if it will be in keeping with the film's realistic nature.

The only thing I'm not looking forward to seeing is the faux-documentary style it has been shot in. Since *The Blair Witch Project* was released in 1999 – rewriting the rulebook on how to make a successful film – there has been a glut of handheld camera and "found footage" movies. They're cheap to make and audiences flock to the screens. *Cloverfield*, *Paranormal Activity* and *The Fourth Kind* are just a few examples. Even George A. Romero jumped on the bandwagon with *Diary of the Dead*. I enjoyed *The Blair Witch Project* enough, but the problem created by its success is that by spawning so many rip-offs, the thrill is gone and you've no doubt seen it all before, which leaves you with a shaky, unwatchable screen.

I recently watched two films that gave me hope for the "found footage" genre – *Lake Mungo* and a Norwegian film called *Troll-Hunter*, which I highly recommend.

With director Josh Trank wanting the film to move away from your average found footage movie, let's hope we have a surprise new addition to the superhero genre that is more akin to *District 9* than *Paranormal Activity*.

Korean DVD Corner

by DANIEL JOSEPH VORDERSTRASSE

▶ PG-
18 Drama
114 minutes

GLOVE (2011)

Directed by: Woo-Seok Kang

▶ PG-
18 Drama
111 Minutes

THE PERFECT GAME (2011)

Directed by: Hue-Gun Park



R E V I E W

To some, "baseball is like a drug. You can't just quit it whenever you want." Loosely based on a true story, Director Kang Woo-seok (Moss, Public Enemy Trilogy) portrays the inspirational story of a group of young men who refused to be controlled by natural restraints.

Propelled by a fiery temper, Kim Sang-nam (Jeong Jae-yeong) is arrested for assault during a drunken stupor. Once a prominent baseball icon and three-time consecutive MVP, his best years have faded long ago, so his immature antics are no longer tolerated. Society calls for detainment, but his agent sends him to coach Chungju Sacred Heart High School's baseball team, presenting Sang-nam's philanthropic side during his pending expulsion discussions among Korean baseball's authorities.

He is less than thrilled upon arrival after learning the team is comprised of hearing-impaired students. Along with vice principal Kang Seon-il (Kang Shin-il) and assisting teacher Miss Nah (Yoo Seon), he is tasked with guiding the team to the highly competitive national tournament. A former elite pitching prospect before his impairment, Cha Myeong-jae (Jang Ki-beom) mirrors Sang-nam in statistics in his amateur years and is convinced to return to his former passion.

Sang-nam must teach the boys to play baseball and succeed in life as an outsider, while trying to resurrect his own desire for playing the game he once cherished.

The director presents an inspirational story that will be enjoyed by audiences, baseball-loving or not. While the theme centers on baseball, it involves a coming-of-age account for both adults and teenagers. This heartfelt story is supported by an award-winning cast, as they portray a classic inspirational scenario in sport. The journey to the championships is sure to influence your heart as the audience awaits the fate of 10 boys-turned-men as they seek to defy the odds and prove baseball is immune to disabilities.

R E V I E W

In what is remembered as the most entertaining and historic match-up in Korean professional sports history, a wonderful retelling of the intriguing story littered with emotion and drama is captured on the big screen. Director Park Hee-gon (Insadong Scandal, a great movie in itself) recreates the essence of sport in a telling fashion.

May 16, 1987 is a day that lives in Korean baseball history. On this epic day, two rival pitchers – Lotte Giants' Choi Dong-won (Cho Seung-woo) and Haitai Tigers' Sun Dong-ryul (Yang Dong-geun) – go toe-to-toe on the mound, seeking to solve a furious debate: Who is the best pitcher in the country?

The Perfect Game encompasses a 15-inning, nearly five hour affair. It turns out to be as-advertised – truly a struggle of giants. Previously restricted from the contest by their respective teams that had worried about the pressure cast upon each pitcher, the teams square off to solve the burning question.

Dong-won suffers from past shoulder problems, while Dong-ryul strives to emerge from his predecessor's shadow as the game's best pitcher. Virtually unheard of in contemporary times, both pitchers remain on the mound for the game's duration.

Will the legendary Choi Dong-won out-battle rising phenom Sun Dong-ryul in their final game that will certainly be enshrined as a legendary tale? The first half of the film creates an anxious atmosphere as the game approaches, nearly paralleling the tension involved in a war epic and portraying eager bystanders as manic fans of their franchises.

Certain melodrama distracts from the main battle, but nonetheless a satisfying depiction of the sporting world's dynamic influence is served to the audience for your utter enjoyment. I highly recommend this film.



20 foreign EXHIBITS for March

1

Artist Name:
Casper Kang, Grace Hong, Lionel Williams
Exhibition name:
Showcase Reboot Vol. 15
Running Dates:
Through March 14
Location:
Platoon Kunsthalle (Apgujeong station,
line 3 exit 3)
Medium:
Various

2

Artist Name:
25 artists from 10 countries
Exhibition name:
The Nude Collection
Running Dates:
Through March 14
Location:
Gallery Golmok (Noksapyeong station,
line 6 exit 3)
Medium:
Photography, paintings

3

Artist Name:
Sven Schelwach
Exhibition name:
oldeastnew
Running Dates:
Through March 16
Location:
Gallery Cottonseed Mullae (Yeongde-
ungpo station, line 1 exit 3)
Medium:
Design and digital art

4

Artist Name:
Michael Kenna
Exhibition name:
Tranquil Morning
Running Dates:
Through March 18
Location:
Gallery Kong (Anguk station,
line 3 exit 1)
Medium:
Photography

5

Artist Name:
Karl Lagerfeld
Exhibition name:
Work in Progress
Running Dates:
Through March 18
Location:
Daelim Contemporary Art Museum
(Gyeongbokgung station, line 3 exit 4)
Medium:
Photography

6

Artist Name:
27 photographers from 10 countries
Exhibition name:
Cross + Scape
Running Dates:
Through March 18
Location:
GoEun Museum, Busan (Haeundae
station, line 2 & Dongbaek station, line 2)
Medium:
Sculpture

7

Artist Name:
Debbie Han
Exhibition name:
Being
Running Dates:
Through March 18
Location:
Sungkok Art Museum (Gwanghwamun
station, line 5 exit 7)
Medium:
n/a

8

Artist Name:
Simon Raab
Exhibition name:
Surface Tension
Running Dates:
Through March 25
Location:
Michael Schultz Gallery Seoul
(Cheongdam station, line 7, exit 9)
Medium:
Mixed media

9

Artist Name:
Yann Arthus Bertrand
Exhibition name:
It's My Home
Running Dates:
Through March 15
Location:
Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), Jongno-
gu, Seoul (City Hall Station, exit 1)
Medium:
Media art, photography, video images

10

Artist Name:
Arya Palguna
Exhibition name:
The Isle of Bliss
Running Dates:
March 8 – 27 (opening reception March
13 @ 5 pm)
Location:
Gallery LVS (Apgujeong station, exit 4)
Medium:
Painting, contemporary Indonesian art

11

Artist Name:
Eva Hesse
Exhibition name:
Spectres and Studiowork
Running Dates:
February 28 – April 7
Location:
Kukje Gallery (Anguk station,
line 3 exit 1)
Medium:
Paintings, sculptures

12

Artist Name:
Leading Finnish designers and artists
Exhibition name:
Design Finland
Running Dates:
March 17 – April 14
Location:
Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul Arts
Center (Nambu Bus Terminal station)
Medium:
Design culture and lifestyle

13

Artist Name:
Reinoud Oudshoorn
Exhibition name:
Dimensions
Running Dates:
March 2 – April 15
Location:
Gallery Scape (Hangangjin station, line 6;
gallery is best reached by taxi)
Medium:
Sculpture, drawings

14

Artist Name:
Michael Craig-Martin
Exhibition name:
Word – Image – Desire
Running Dates:
March 16 – April 29
Location:
Gallery Hyundai (Anguk station,
line 3 exit 1)
Medium:
Conceptual paintings and drawings

15

Artist Name:
Gunther von Hagen
Exhibition name:
Body Worlds
Running Dates:
Through March 8
Location:
The War Memorial of Korea, (Samgakji
station, exit 12)
Medium:
Anatomical exhibition

16

Artist Name:
Mina Cheon
Exhibition name:
Polipop, Political Pop Art
Running Dates:
Through March 11
Location:
Sungkok Art Museum (Gwanghwamun
station, line 5, exit 7)
Medium:
Media, video, installation, performance

17

Artist Name:
Lee Sang Won, Park Jihye, Michael Miller
Exhibition name:
Trace of Human Nature
Running Dates:
Through March 2
Location:
Gallery Sun Contemporary (Anguk sta-
tion, line 3 exit 1)
Medium:
Paintings

18

Artist Name:
Magnum Photo Exhibition
Exhibition name:
Companions for the Globe
Running Dates:
Through March 4
Location:
Hangaram Art Museum,
Seoul Arts Center
Medium:
Photography, films

19

Artist Name:
Collaboration
Exhibition name:
Where's My Friends' Home
Running Dates:
Through March 11
Location:
Nam Seoul Museum of Art (Sadang sta-
tion, line 2 exit 1)
Medium:
Korean/western paintings, photos, etc.

20

Artist Name:
Ancient Korean/Chinese calligraphers
Exhibition name:
1,300th Anniversary of Saeng Kim
Running Dates:
Through March 5
Location:
Seoul Calligraphy Art Museum, Seoul
Arts Center
Medium:
Calligraphy

E-mail mattlamers@groovekorea.com to add your exhibit!



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The ch

Bodhgaya, India

"I had been walking around for nearly 10 minutes when I crossed paths with a mutt embellished with blue and pink spots."

By Colin Roohan

BODHGAYA, India – Bum ba dum dum dum, ba dum dum dum. "How long have they been drumming?" my wife asked. "Seems like days."

"Surely they can't keep that pace up all night," I said.

It was roughly one in the morning and my wife and I were lying in what we were told was a bed; the two of us were cozily tucked into our undoubtedly one-man mosquito net, inhaling the mosquito coil smog that we had created. Bum ba dum dum dum, ba dum dum dum; although irritating at the time, this simple little beat would ultimately become the soundtrack for our Holi experience. Unable to fall asleep I went to the window to evaluate the party below, in attempts to see if the partygoers were showing signs of stopping. I cracked my window to get a clearer view. The drumming pulsed on, echoing off the clay walls that made up the small maze of an alley. My vision was obstructed and I couldn't see anybody, but shadows dancing around on the walls told me that Holi was an experience I would never forget.

The next morning we awoke to a sun filled room and the drumming had stopped but was replaced by similarly boisterous laughing, chanting, and singing. Our guesthouse owner, Mohammad, a short, stout, jovial man, ran into me downstairs. After greeting him I asked for a little crash course on Holi. He told me that things were going to be safe for me.



romantic pulse

Roohan, the author didn't escape being powder-bombed. →

My wife on the other hand, with blond hair and blue eyes, may draw some unwanted attention from the rambunctious men around town. Mohammad admitted that most men on the streets were probably pretty loaded as they had been partying all night. He let me know that social norms did not hold true during Holi and me walking around toting a camera would quickly draw a crowd. He even told me of a saying often heard during the holiday: "Holi mey bura na mano, Holi hail!" ("Don't feel offended... it's Holi.") In other words, don't get pissed if you get hit with a face full of colored powder. After the etiquette section of Mohammad's lesson he moved on to the all-important matter of nourishment, and he informed me that most businesses—restaurants included—would be closed for several days. Mohammad's wife cooked for tenants upon request but because of the holiday she would only be making breakfast, so if I wanted anything that resembled a meal, now was the time to capitalize. I ordered two of the only breakfast offering that day, coconut porridge, and then made my way back up to my room.

As we enjoyed our porridge I told my wife about Mohammad's concerns about us going out and walking around. As she had already been groped several times earlier on this trip, she wasn't too keen on the idea of standing around a bunch of unpredictable celebrants, and chose to stay inside for some relaxation.



"Happy Holi!" They all screamed. I shut my eyes and mouth as tightly as possible as they applied generous amounts of the gritty powder."

Colorful characters celebrate with abandon.

I told my wife where I would be taking photos, grabbed my gear, then set off. As I stepped out of the guesthouse the aroma of bread filled the air. I still was unsure if I wanted to be painted with Holi colors, but wore old clothing that I wouldn't mind parting with, just in case.

I had been walking around for nearly 10 minutes when I crossed paths with a mutt embellished with blue and pink spots. The dog, unimpressed with me, went to lie down in the dirt. As the dog made his downward movement I noticed some of the Holi powder on him slide off... it was fresh. My curiosity piqued, I headed in the direction I saw the dog come from. I turned a blind corner and there they were, a group of young men all sporting Holi colors in fantastic fashion. The contrast between the color of their skin and the Holi powder was surreal and looked like something a Merry Prankster would be proud of. The guys quickly noticed me and my lack of color then shot each other grins to confirm what was already going on in their heads.

I could either run back the way I had come to seek shelter with my canine comrade or accept this inevitable fate. For me the choice was easy; I quickly tucked my cameras away and readied myself for attack. The sea of Day-Glo faces closed in on me, demanding conformity. "Happy Holi!" They all screamed. I shut my eyes and mouth as tightly as possible as they applied generous amounts of the gritty powder. As I shook my head to discard any loose powder I slightly opened my eyes, sunlight bounced off of the mist and I was entranced by the beauty. Holi celebrates the arrival of spring; it is a time of renewal and rebirth, a time to abandon winter's icy grip and spread joy amongst friends and family.

After making my portraits and enjoying the jubilation, the group and I exchanged pleasantries and handshakes again, wishing each other a happy Holi. I assumed the group's assault on a foreigner would have caused a lull in the festivities, but the men carried on partying just as I had found them, lost in their Holi bliss. I took a couple more photos then began to walk away, just then the maestro queued the band and a smile came across my face.... Bum ba dum dum dum, ba dum dum dum.

PurpleHands – Few escape the festival without a coating of vibrantly colored dust.



Spotted Dogs – Even local hounds get into the spirit of Holi.



Smiling Child – Holi is a springtime harvest festival.

“The sea of Day-Glo faces closed in on me, demanding conformity.

Citizens throughout India (and other countries such as Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) celebrate the Holi festival. It is on the day after the full moon in the Hindu month of Phalgun (March). Holi honors many things; primarily it is to celebrate the arrival of spring but its origins are deeply rooted in Vaishnavism, a discipline of Hin-

duism that worships Vishnu. Hiranyakashipu, the King of Demons, had a son, Prahlada. Prahlada was extremely devoted to Lord Vishnu, which his father did not like. Hiranyakashipu tried several times to kill his son but all attempts failed. In the final attempt Hiranyakashipu ordered his son to sit atop a cremation pyre on the lap of his

demoness sister Holika. Prahlada asked Vishnu for protection and obeyed his father's orders. Onlookers watched as Holika went up in flames. Prahlada was unharmed. Thus the burning of Holika signifies the start of Holi. Holi is originally believed to celebrate bountiful harvests and fertile land.





INCHEON: KOREA'S WELCOME MAT NO MORE

By Stephanie Potell

You might have the impression that Yeongjong Island merely exists for the sake of the airport, but despite the 33 million annual passengers there is a surprisingly unexplored and rural feel along the coast.

The Tri-Bowl

The Tri-Bowl is an eye-catching structure adjacent to Compact Smart City. Three conical bowls subtly merge together and rise out of a reflection pond. The structure is so delicate that it's easy to imagine it drifting across the water as soon as the harsh wind blows off the coast. Currently the Tri-Bowl is exhibiting Hello Kitty Planet- as if the red bows tied to the tree branches outside weren't a giveaway! Until June 30th, visitors may visit the extraterrestrial wonderland populated by Hello Kitty and friends. While the majority of the dioramas show the expectedly sweet and family-friendly Hello Kitty, there are a few displays that will keep you on your toes. Look out for Hello Kitty the alcohol-fueled musician, gender-bender Kitty, and the pink turd with a tidy yellow ribbon on top.

Open Tuesday-Sunday 10-6 p.m. Cost- 12,000 won. www.hellokittyplanet.co.kr

TRAVELING JAPAN

Narita
By COLIN ROOHAN

Incheon

Downtown Incheon & International Airport Tour

While tourists usually view Incheon as a welcome mat, the city has been striving to change visitors' perceptions. Since 1999 Incheon City Tour buses have wound their way down the foggy streets and across the numerous bridges, which stitch the city together.

While the tour is in Korean, each seat has a monitor with GPS tracking and the names of the upcoming locations in English. You can prearrange with the driver the stops you want to make, or you can test out your language aptitude en route. Either way, you are in for an interesting day rediscovering the gateway to Korea.

Incheon Port: Sight #5

Originally opened in 1883, it is now currently larger than Yeouido Island in Seoul. 22,000 ships enter the port every year and that number feels impressive as you drive through the mountainous piles of cargo. From spools of metal cables and piles of timber to an unending parking lot filled with rows of perfectly aligned cars, the scale is enormous.



Compact Smart City offers a 3-D view of the Incheon Free Economic Zone.



The displays are engaging and interactive.

Compact Smart City: Sight #10

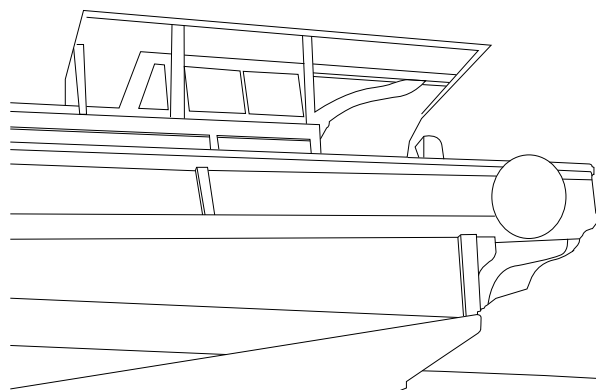
Compact Smart City is located within the Songdo neighborhood, which has an appealing mix of modern urban design and American suburbia. Unlike Seoul, the high rise apartments are separated by streets both wide and vacant. Visitors accustomed to the suburbs might even experience a moment of déjà vu.

The bus only stops at Compact Smart City for a bathroom break, but the exhibition hall is absolutely worth a closer look. All three levels focus on city planning as well as the history/future of both the city and the Incheon Free Economic Zone. The displays are engaging and interactive, and the only thing missing is a small train chugging through the expansive miniature replicas of the city. In addition, the first floor encapsulates the Incheon experience with a laser, water, and wind spectacular known as the 5D Image Hall!

Open Tuesday-Sunday from 10:00-18:00, closed on holidays. Free

Masian Beach: Sight #19

The deserted setting at Masian Beach is moody and a perfect opportunity for photos. Capture the barnacle-clad posts which cordon off the shore as well as the dilapidated boats washed aground. The best time of the day is when the setting sun breaks through the lingering fog to softly illuminate the exposed seabed. From here, the path along the road to Seonnyeo Rock is short but lined with bushy overgrowth.



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Incheon Bridge: Sight #14

Did you know that Incheon Bridge is the 5th longest cable-stayed bridge in the world? It's a Korean architectural landmark and was even featured on Discovery Channel's Mega Builders. The island it connects to, which holds Incheon International, is also a marvel. While travelers and their children are thrilled by the ice rink inside the airport, there are more exciting engineering feats right underfoot. What was once a shallow sea between two separate islands is now a solid base for the second busiest international cargo handler in the world!

Yeongjong Island

You might now have the impression that the island merely exists for the sake of the airport, but despite the 33 million annual passengers there is a surprisingly unexplored and rural feel along the coast. For those who really wish to go further off the beaten path, the Geojampo and Sammok Pier bus stops are both ferry points for nearby small islands that double as backdrops for famous dramas like Stairway to Heaven, Full House, and Sad Love Story.

While tourists usually view Incheon as a welcome mat, the city has been striving to change visitor's perceptions. Since 1999 Incheon City Tour buses have wound their way down the foggy streets and across the numerous bridges, which stitch the city together.



The Tri-Bowl entrance

Seonnyeo Rock: Sight #20

According to the tour video, this is where "fairies from heaven came down at night by sliding down a rainbow. The fairies supposedly danced and sang on the rock." While the legend feels a bit far-fetched the walk along the small beach is peaceful. The pyramid-shaped rock is not viewable from the bus, but if you exit it is only a short 15-20 minute walk up the road to Eulwangni Beach.



Winter fun on the ice.

Eulwangni Beach: Sight #21

Like any small beach town in Korea, there are a number of restaurants and minbak that line the road down to the beach. During the winter season the streets are expectedly quiet. A few enterprising restaurant owners stand outside in the cool air waiting for customers while the bleeps of an arcade filter down the road. The coast is not pristine, but there is a certain rugged and worn charm.

This beach is a good place to eat lunch or stay the night- especially if you plan to explore the nearby islands. If at the end of the day you find yourself at a desolate bus stop across from a scattering of chickens and goats, you'll know you've just experienced something quite unique. For although you are this close to the airport, it feels more like a million miles away from jet setters and duty free shopping. The only rumbling engine to be found is from the next bus turning the corner.

INFORMATION & DETAILS

Tour Logistics:

Incheon City Tour
Cost: 7,000 won for a "Hop On/Hop Off" pass
Line 1, Incheon Station exit #1. The ticket booth is on the left.
Departs on the hour starting at 10:00. Check the ticket booth for the last departure time.
Reservations are recommended for the months of February & March: (032) 772-4000
english.visitincheon.org

Alternative Transportation:

Yeongjong Island:
Catch bus 306 from either Incheon Station or Incheon International Airport. It runs a similar coastal route as the tour bus.
Tri-Bowl and Compact Smart City:
Catch bus M6405 outside Line 2, Gangnam Station Exit #7. Get off the bus at Central Park Station.





**GIRLS
ARE NOT FOR SALE**

The fight against human trafficking brought to Korea

TARA TENG

By Dylan Goldbyn, Daniel Sanchez & Matthew Lamers

"Not only are there 27 million slaves in the world, but these people's lives matter. I keep going back to that because that is my conviction, and that's who I am." - Tara Teng, Miss Canada 2011, Woman of the Year 2011.

Miss Canada Tara Teng spent a week in Korea campaigning against "modern-day slavery."

2011
Miss Canada
TARA TENG
By Dylan Goldby, Daniel
Sanchez & Matthew Lamers

GIRLS ARE NOT FOR SALE

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Korea is both a destination and source for human trafficking. The Korea Women's Development Institute said in a 2007 study that the sex trade industry was worth 14 trillion won (\$12.4 billion) and consisted of 269,000 Korean prostitutes. And dbanews.com even claimed that hundreds of thousands more Chinese women were involved in prostitution in Korea.

Although those numbers are alarmingly high, they are significant improvements from when experts said they peaked over a decade ago.

Part of the credit has to go to multiple government crackdowns and the involvement of religious communities.

One of those communities is centered around Onnuri, one of the largest churches in the world, and its pastor of English Ministries Eddie Byun. He launched the Not For Sale Korea campaign in July 2011 with an aim "to fight slavery in our backyard." The campaign is the local branch of the global Not for Sale Campaign, whose mission is to fight all forms of slavery around the world.

This year, Not for Sale Korea hosted a conference organized around the theme of bringing an end to

human trafficking and slavery in our lifetime. The Freedom and Honor Conference, held Feb. 10 and 11 and organized in conjunction with Onnuri's HOPE Be Restored ministry, featured two keynote speakers, including David Batstone, co-founder and president of Not For Sale, and Tara Teng, Miss Canada 2011, Woman of the Year 2011 and a human trafficking activist.

Groove Korea met with Teng after the conference wrapped up to talk about her convictions and the fight to eradicate human trafficking.

"Human trafficking is documented in 161 countries worldwide, and yet what's most amazing is that when you see these countries coming together, this isn't a problem that understands borders, and it has no discrimination based on ethnic people groups," she said. "So this is something that really transcends, and at the same time it's something that I see people coming together for; from Canada to Korea for such a common cause. I think that that is beautiful."

Following is the transcript of the conversation, which was edited in some places for length and clarity.

INTERVIEW

Tell us a little about yourself and your convictions.

The first time I heard about human trafficking I was 12 years old, and I heard about it from a documentary called "Bangkok Girl." It told the story of a young woman who was trapped in the sex trade in Bangkok, Thailand.

With one sentence, she completely changed my life forever. She looked directly into the camera lens and she just said: "No one cares about me." The power of that statement – where she literally believed

she had no worth or no value, only what people would pay for her – I can't fathom that. I can't understand how you can turn a person into a commodity. It was something that just broke my heart.

You've been in Korea for a few days now. Has your experience so far uncovered any misconceptions you might have had about the country?

It's been wonderful. The people have been so warm, so gracious. I feel like Korea's become like a second home for me now. Back in Canada, the community that I live in has a

lot of South Koreans that have moved from Korea to Canada who have all clustered together in my neighborhood ... We have also hosted people in homestays. So we've been able to

have the privilege of getting to know a little of the South Korean culture. Korea has come to me before, and now I've come to Korea.

What's been your best experience and biggest surprise?

The conference that we had, "Freedom and Honor," talking about modern day slavery, and seeing how moved South Koreans were by that. I really feel that Korea is specially po-

sitioned to be a leader in this fight to end human trafficking. There are more slaves today than ever before in human history, and human trafficking is the fastest growing crime. It

happens in Canada, it happens in the United States, in developing countries, and it happens here in Korea.

"You, as a person, can do something to end human trafficking and modern slave labor. That is incredibly empowering. We don't have to sit by and be bystanders when this is the greatest human rights issue of our time, we can actually step up and be heroes in this fight and be engaged and be doing something to see it end — be part of watching history change. It is huge." - Tara Teng, Miss Canada 2011, Woman of the Year 2011.

I have personally done work in Canada, the United States, Thailand and Cambodia. It's been really inspiring to see the Korean people rise up and fight for their brothers and sisters that are being exploited within the country or abroad. And even people who aren't of South Korean descent are saying that no person should be bought or sold as a product you can profit from, they deserve freedom. That is something that has been very inspiring to me.

How did you get involved with the Not For Sale campaign?

I have been working full time as an anti-human-trafficking activist for a long time. I work independently, so I don't really work for any one organization. Rather, I want to partner with organizations that are leaders in this fight, people who are coming up with new and creative solutions, who are being effective, and join together and raise our voices in a unified collective voice because we're so much stronger together. I have been working alongside [Not For Sale] and a number of other organizations and campaigns for a while. I love the way that, specifically, the Not For Sale Campaign is able to work. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, or what your gifts and talents and abilities are.

You, as a person, can do something to end human trafficking and modern slave labor. That is incredibly empowering. We don't have to sit by and be bystanders when this is the greatest human rights issue of our time, we can actually step up and be heroes in this fight and be engaged and be doing something to see it end — be part of watching history change. It is huge.

When Eddie Byun, pastor of English Ministries at Onnuri — one of the largest churches in the world — launched Not For Sale Korea in July 2011, the NGO said his goal was "to fight slavery in his backyard." What forms of slavery are active in South Korea? What methods does NFSK use to achieve its goals?

What the research I did in preparation to come here shows, and what I've seen first hand over the last week that I've been here, is that one of the really big things in Korea is sex trafficking. Statistics and documentation say that there are over one million South Korean women alone that are being forced into red light districts and other forms of prostitution in South Korea.

Tara Teng visited the peninsula to speak at schools and meet authorities to raise awareness on human trafficking.



2011
Miss Canada
TARA TENG
By Dylan Goldby, Daniel
Sanchez & Matthew Lamers

GIRLS ARE NOT FOR SALE

For more on
community,
go to our new
website, www.groovekorea.com.

And that doesn't include other ethnic groups that are brought into the country. We often think that they are there by choice, and making a lot of money. But we need to acknowledge that around the world, between 92 and 98 percent of individuals in prostitution are not there by choice.

In South Korea, it's a very materialistic culture in a lot of ways, fashion is huge here, the cosmetics industry is huge, there are gadgets that I haven't even seen in North America yet, and it's one of those cultures where a lot of that is really feeding into [the problem]. A lot of young women find themselves in great debt. They find themselves having multiple credit cards to pay off and find themselves approaching lone sharks. And this is

the kind of situation that breeds a vulnerability for exploitation. A lone shark or trafficker offers a way to pay back that debt, and they find themselves fed lies and deception, and before they know it they're stuck in a red light district with debt and interest that they never really see the end of.

One of the things that we have been working on here is awareness. People cannot act if they do not know what is happening. The first step is making people more aware. The ability to share that awareness with other people is very powerful. I want people's hearts to be engaged. These aren't numbers that we're talking about, these are people's lives. South Korean culture seems to be like one

big family. Everyone seems to be an uncle, aunt, brother or sister. I think there's something beautiful about the way South Koreans treat each other as family. We need to realize that [there are] over 1 million South Korean sisters who are being sold – even though prostitution is illegal – in red light districts like Yong Ju Gol, and into karaoke bars, massage parlours or kissing rooms.

The campaign is having success, and I think we're just seeing the tip of the iceberg with it. I think that even after I leave, that this is going to be something that's going to continue on. Next time I come back, I hope to come back to a completely different Korea.

"I have been able to speak in a lot of places, going from slum villages in Cambodia to the highest points of government around the world and speaking truth and freedom and human dignity.

Who would have thought that would have come out of a pageant title?" —

Tara Teng, Miss Canada 2011, Woman of the Year 2011.



What are your personal goals with the Not For Sale campaign?

I work independently, and NFSK has asked me to come as a partner for this specific event. In Canada, we first started what is called a Zero Tolerance Community, and what we want to see is a national action plan to combat human trafficking. So what we've done in my community [Langley, British Columbia] is we've started

the first Zero Tolerance Community. We are saying we won't tolerate the exploitation of human lives. We are going to intervene as best we can, because we believe that people's lives are valuable. And that is setting precedent across the entire country. A community has never done that before. Ordinary citizens are saying:

"As a community we're doing something about that." Eventually we want to see those kinds of national action plans all over every country, so that every country will have a national unified front, a strategy on how we're going to prevent and how we're going to intervene.

How has your Miss Canada title helped you to fulfill those goals?

I never would have dreamed that I would be Miss Canada, or that I would have the provincial title of Miss British Columbia. This was [my] first time ever doing pageants. Honestly, the thing that I think is different for me is that I know who I am.

On the first day, we had dinner with all the girls, and I said, "My name is Tara Teng and this is what I do. I work to end human trafficking. This is what I've been doing for a long

time, this isn't just a platform or a cause, this is what I do. I'm not going to compromise it to win a crown or a title. This is who I am. And, if you don't like that, then don't pick me."

In the Miss Canada pageant, they're looking not for the person who can be the best super-model, but the person who can be the best role model for our country; someone who can be kind of like an ambassador. That was something I could really believe in.

The title has opened so many doors all across Canada, the United States, Korea and a lot of other places. I have been able to speak in a lot of places; going from slum villages in Cambodia to the highest points of government around the world and speaking truth and freedom and human dignity. Who would have thought that would have come out of a pageant title?

Has the title been a hindrance in any way?

I think that there is a stereotype that comes with it. I kind of like proving people wrong. I know that when I walk into the room, they already have their ideas of what I'm going to be like. It doesn't matter about all the things that I've done before. It doesn't matter that

I've been nominated as one of the top 25 transformational Canadians ever, or that I was the Woman of the Year in 2011, all they see is Miss Canada. I love being able to show them that you can be not just beautiful and smart, but you can step up and be a leader.

You can stand on your convictions and you can speak for something that matters. Not only are there 27 million slaves in the world, but these people's lives matter. I keep going back to that because that is my conviction, and that's who I am.

The vast majority of sex traffickers in the world are in the industry against their will.



"I kind of like proving people wrong. I know that when I walk into the room, they already have their ideas of what I'm going to be like. It doesn't matter about all the things that I've done before. It doesn't matter that I've been nominated as one of the top 25 transformational Canadians ever, or that I was the woman of the year in 2011, all they see is Miss Canada. I love being able to show them that you can be not just beautiful and smart, but you can step up and be a leader."

- Tara Teng, Miss Canada 2011, Woman of the Year 2011.

How might people reading this interview be able to help Not For Sale Korea and how can people in Korea get involved in the global campaign?

Just do it. If it was your sister, cousin or neighbor, would you waste a second? Probably not. If you don't want that for your loved ones, then it shouldn't be for anyone else's either.





COVER STORY



Are you lonely, too?

*Make friends, build confidence,
network in Seoul*

By Rajnesh Sharma, Rob McGovern, Matthew Lamers

"Fight for your life. Get into the fighting ring with yourself and fight back the next time you hear yourself doubting yourself. The next time you are saying, oh my goodness I am not good enough, I am not pretty enough, I am not smart enough — challenge those thoughts."

Lerena Holloway, Seocho Leaders Toastmasters

Starting from scratch isn't easy.

It's not out of the ordinary for newcomers to Korea to feel a bit lonely after unpacking their two overstuffed suitcases. It's a lot to handle right off the bat; laying down roots, creating a home, establishing yourself at a new job, finding a community — all while getting to know your colleagues, learning a new culture and language, adapting to a new climate, and experimenting with new food. Usually you start with no friends.

Some people handle this adaptation period better

than others. They find their groove, make friends, love the food, pick up the language, find love, and fit in at work with ease. Is this you?

But for many it's a painful period. They struggle with a different office culture. They fail to meet like-minded people. They miss their family and friends. They drink. Loneliness can do crazy things to people. Anything can happen — and often does — when you're outside a network of support. Or is this you?

Are you lonely, too?

By Rajnesh Sharma, Rob McGovern, Matthew Lamers

Network in Seoul

***"I feel super confident, and stronger, after joining and committing. I feel more focused, just more fine-tuned with myself and who I am. I feel stronger as a person, all because I chose to get up and do a few speeches."* –**

Lerena Holloway, Seocho Leaders Toastmasters

Speak up

For Lerena Holloway, what merely began as spending free time drinking with friends turned into a pernicious habit. She would spend most weekends drinking, adding to a cycle of unproductivity and general unhealthiness. Eventually however, the feelings of misery and dissatisfaction urged her to seek a more positive outlet for her time. Having heard about Toastmasters while in California, she decided to attend the Seocho Leaders Toastmasters (SLTM) club in Seoul.

Toastmasters is an international nonprofit organization that aims to help members improve their public speaking, communication and leadership skills. There are about 35 clubs in Korea, all designed to help women and men of various ages learn the art of public speaking. SLTM focuses on speeches and debates to develop its members' speaking skills. The club motivates individuals to step outside their comfort zone, confront their fears of public speaking, express themselves, and develop an invaluable communication skill. But Toastmasters is still about so much more: It fosters a strong sense of community for both foreigners and Koreans and confidence in its members.

During her initial visit to SLTM, Holloway was hesitant to speak in front of the group. However, due to the friendliness and encouragement from other members, she eventually felt comfortable facing one of her greatest fears. Holloway described just that after her first speech, "I felt like I was on this high for confronting one of my fears." Determined to improve her public speaking skills and lead a healthier lifestyle, Holloway fervently committed herself to SLTM.

Holloway's immense dedication has led her to become the president of SLTM. She is testament to the positive impact the club has had on her lifestyle. "I feel super confident, and stronger, after joining and committing. I feel more focused, just more fine-tuned with myself and who I am. I feel stronger as a person, all because I chose to get up and do a few speeches."

Holloway admits, "I had a habit of entertaining my free

time and social time just by drinking. I would go out and would pretty much stay drunk from Friday, Saturday, and then all the way until Sunday." Shifting her energies from this unhealthy habit to focusing on public speaking has allowed her to grow as an individual. "After doing the speeches, I was getting more in touch with the voice I had in myself and connecting with my thoughts." Moreover, Holloway credits Toastmasters for her becoming a better English teacher. "Whenever I walk into the classroom, my kids feel my confidence. They have a stronger appreciation for me because I have a stronger appreciation for me."

Holloway reinforces that Toastmasters is all about, "speaking, getting up in public, getting up in front of people, and just having peoples' entire attention." During every meeting, members are encouraged to give speeches. Individuals are given the opportunity to choose any topic of interest, and prepare a speech to present to the club members. Lerena, who recently completed her 10th speech, choose to talk about the importance of fighting for your life. With great enthusiasm, she expresses, "Fight for your life ... get in the ring with yourself ... get into the fighting ring with yourself ... and fight back the next time you hear yourself doubting yourself. The next time you are saying, oh my goodness I am not good enough, I am not pretty enough, I am not smart enough – challenge those thoughts."

Aside from developing speaking skills, building self-confidence, learning and reflecting about riveting topics in a fun and supportive environment, the club provides opportunities for making friends and social networking. It is an excellent atmosphere to meet Koreans as well as foreigners of various ages and professions. The club meets every Thursday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Gangnam. Lerena advocates, "Toastmasters can only help you. So, our SLTM club is a great starting point if you are new to public speaking or you had practice with public speaking. Come to this club ... it's fun, it's relaxed, it's positive."

***"I like to help people and this group is a place where people can help and be helped; we share information and the parties are great. Meetup Korea has helped to make my Korean life fun ... I always find what I am looking for in this group."* –**

Amel Nari, Meetup Korea member

Meet up

If you are more interested in meeting people, networking and learning about Korea, check out the social group Meetup Korea (www.meetupkorea.com).

Amel Nari did, and she said she got everything she was looking for.

"Through Meetup Korea I met a lot of people," said the

Frenchwoman. "I stay in touch with a lot of them and try to be helpful, too. I like to help people and this group is a place where people can help and be helped; we share information and the parties are great. Meetup Korea has helped to make my Korean life fun ... I always find what I am looking for in this group."

Meetup Korea was started nine months ago by Kwon Young-hun to give residents and visitors to Korea a place to get reliable and accessible information about the country, as well as providing opportunities for newcomers and veterans to meet up.

In just nine months the website has registered almost 1,000 members while the Facebook group has triple that number. Meetup Korea has members from all around the world. In fact, Kwon is preparing to launch the site in Japanese and Chinese, hoping to have them up and running in around four months. With his two years working in advertising sales with Stars and Stripes, Kwon is also targeting the tens of thousands of American military personnel hunkered down in Korea.

The largest event so far – and the most successful in terms of turnout – was the 2nd Expats' Festival, held in conjunction with Seoul FC, where of the 10,000 or so guests around 500 went as part of Meetup Korea. Last month there was an event at a volleyball game. Regular events take place at restaurants, bars, clubs and at all kinds of sporting events. They regularly attract 200 or more people, making them some of the largest networking events in the city. It's a great way to meet like-minded people – or even someone completely different. Whether you're lonely, or you just want to network, there isn't a better place to start than a Meetup Korea event.

Membership to the group is free and Kwon assures us that it will remain so. The events, however, typically cost 20,000 won – which comes with food and drinks.

Meetup Korea originally started as a Facebook group. Kwon would field members' questions, search online for answers and translate the information. As numbers in the group grew, members would help each other out, making the group almost self sufficient and leading to the creation of the website. Most of the members are in Seoul, some are in Incheon and Gyeonggi Province and a few are in other cities around the country. Kwon hopes to eventually expand to these cities and organize events there, too.

The group is a resource where both Koreans and non-Koreans can exchange hints and tips about life here, but the meet up part features prominently. Events are regularly held in different areas of the city where members can meet each other and do what people do when they meet up – exchange details about where they are from, how they got to Korea and, if you are from Wales, spend four hours explaining where it is. Yes a lot of the Korean members want to improve their English and make friends with foreigners, but it works both ways. Expats wanting Korean friends will find them here, plus the Korean friends you make are more than willing to lend a helping hand when it comes to settling in.

After starting out on his own working from home, Meetup Korea now has an office and small staff. Not that that means Kwon can rest on his success. Still working 10 hours a day, Kwon is determined to make the website the No. 1 expat resource in the country. "It is stressful, but the positive feedback from members and companies we work with makes it all worth while and inspires me to continue."

One member, who asked to go by JC, said Meetup Korea is an "awesome group. If you want to improve your experience in Korea and make lasting memories, check out Meetup Korea. You will regret that you didn't."

Park Seong-hwan joined Meetup Korea six months ago. "I couldn't have guessed that this group would be so much fun. Meetup Korea also has a lot of partners, so members can receive tickets to see Nanta, FC Seoul football games and free tattoo coupons – my favorite. The mood of the group is so good and I am thankful to the creator. Meetup Korea knows how to make people happy. We have fun together and always welcome new members."

Still in its infancy, the group is growing steadily. Kwon is ambitious. He wants to build up a huge database of reviews and listings and perhaps eventually work with organizations like the Korean Tourism Organization.

Look out for some exclusive deals and opportunities that will link up Groove Korea's readers and Meetup Korea members.

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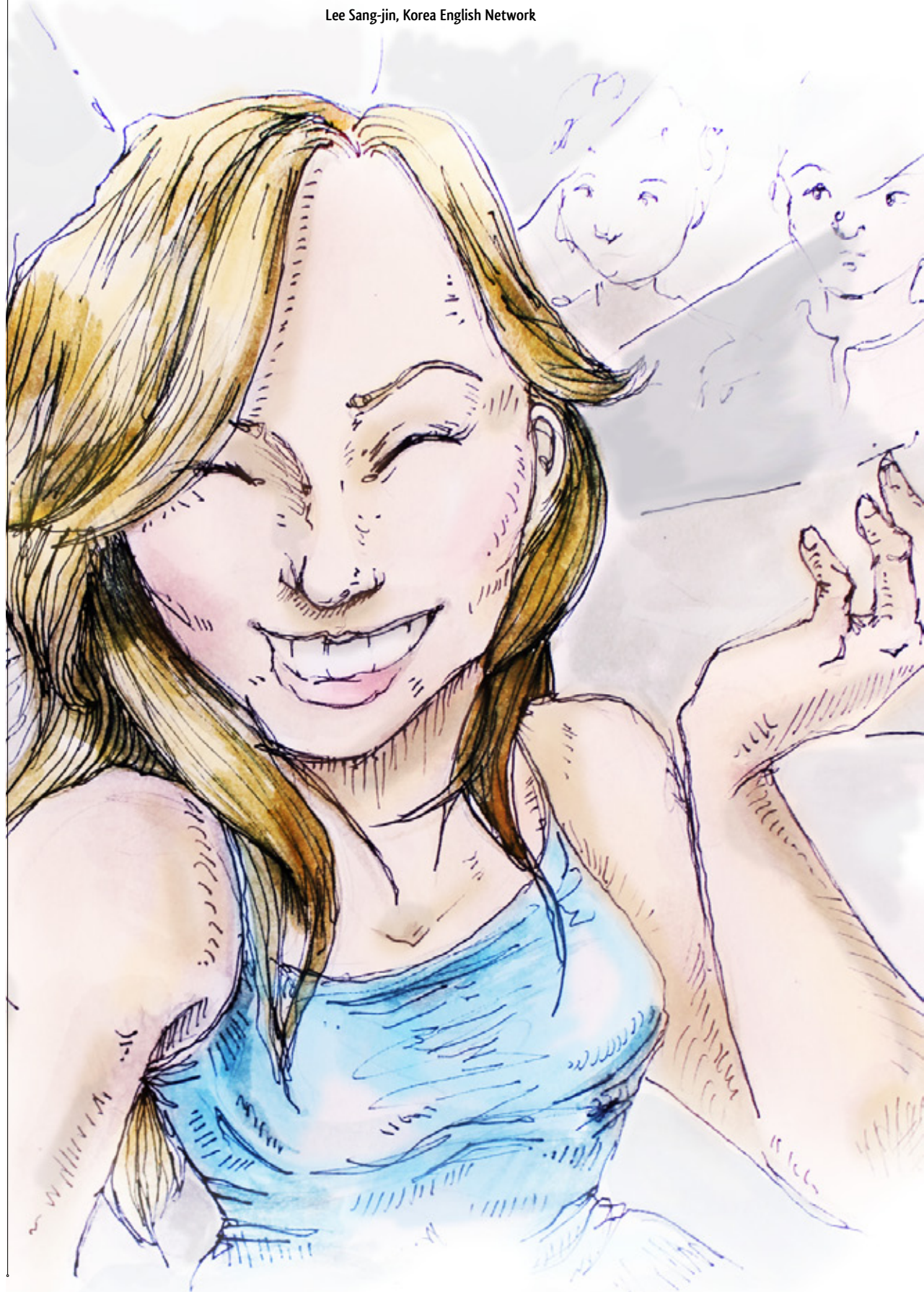
Are you lonely, too?

By Rajnesh Sharma, Rob
McGovern, Matthew Lamers

"For Koreans, they have a chance to learn foreign languages from native speakers instead of studying abroad. For non-Koreans, we help them understand Korean culture through field trips, social gatherings, parties and language exchange group meetings."

Lee Sang-jin, Korea English Network

Network in Seoul



GK For more on
community,
go to our new
website, www.groovekorea.com!

Sports

JUST
BE
NICE

Still lonely? Why not join a team and burn off that winter beer belly. Here is a list of some of the expat-led sports groups here in Seoul.

Try your hand at the most popular sport in the world – soccer (or football if you know what you're talking about). There are leagues that operate on both Saturday and Sunday, with the larger and more competitive being the latter. So either run off your hangover from Friday night on Saturday, or run off your hangover from Saturday on Sunday. Teams in both leagues will be looking for players, so get registered and start playing.

Seoul Sunday football league:
www.facebook.com/ssflkorea

Seoul Saturday Soccer League:
seoulsaturdaysoccerleague.com

If the running aspect of football appeals but the kicking doesn't, then the Seoul Flyers running club might be the answer. There are regular runs on Saturday morning, track workouts on Tuesday and a Namsan Tower run every Thursday. There is also a race calendar that takes runners all over the country.

Seoul Flyers running club:
www.seouflyers.com

Fancy yourself the next Albert Pujols? The Seoul Baseball League is alive and kicking, but without the kicking, obviously. A participation fee of 80,000 won covers uniform and equipment. For more information about the league, please contact Seoul_Baseball_League@yahoo.com or look them up on facebook.

Seoul Baseball League:
seoul_baseball_league@yahoo.com

An alternative to playing one sport is to play many. And for that there is recROK. According to their facebook group "Whether it's sports leagues, a beer club, scavenger hunts, flash mobs, Mexican feasts or general shenanigans, we're helping people have a good time in Seoul." They also have basketball, volleyball and ultimate Frisbee.

RecROK:
recROK@gmail.com

If you want to travel a little further afield, how about getting on your bike. Han River Riders tout themselves as the premier cycling club of South Korea. Go along and find out if they really are "all crazy about bikes."

Han River Riders:
www.han-river-riders.com / www.facebook.com/groups/HanRiverRiders

How about being the next Tebow? The Seoul Warriors football club is a diverse group of (American) football enthusiasts dedicated to spreading the knowledge and popularity of football in Korea and throughout Asia.

American football:
www.seoulwarriors.com / seoulfootball@gmail.com

Finally, if you have balls of steel and don't mind having your head stamped on from time to time, try rugby, the manliest of all sports. No padding, no helmet, no protection. Just big balls. Metaphorical ones of course, as girls play rugby, too, and power to 'em.

Seoul survivors RFC:
www.survivorsrfc.com / www.facebook.com/SeoulSurvivors

Language Exchange & more

The group Korea English Network (KEN) helps arrange language exchanges and organizes parties, activities and field trips. Lee Sang-jin, creative coordinator and founder of KEN, said it helps expats get involved in the community. KEN takes place Monday through Thursday from 6-8 p.m and has more than 600 members offline. Look them up on Facebook and find them in real life.

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PAINT THE TOWN GREEN:

A St. Patrick's Day Festival primer

Story by Shauna Browne, photos courtesy Tom Coyner via IAK

St. Patrick's Day is a cultural holiday celebrated internationally on March 17. It commemorates St. Patrick, commonly regarded as the patron saint of Ireland.

Last year's St. Patrick's celebration, held in Insadong, Seoul, drew more than 10,000 people.



The Irish Association of Korea has been finalizing preparations for this year's St. Patrick's Day Festival. The much-anticipated event will take place in a prime Seoul location on Saturday, March 17.

In past years, the festival has drawn large crowds and is in fact one of the largest annual expat events in Seoul. The Irish Association of Korea invites people from all nationalities to join them at this event.

"Our National Day is really an international Irish day," said Eamonn McKee, Irish ambassador to South Korea. "It's about the 70 million in the world who have Irish ancestry or who were born in Ireland and emigrated. It's about the story of the Irish, why they left, the lives they created in the countries that became their new homes and the impact

they made economically, politically and culturally. That is why St. Patrick himself is such an appropriate patron saint – an emigrant to Ireland who had such a profound impact on his adopted country."

St. Patrick's Day is a cultural holiday celebrated internationally. It commemorates St. Patrick, commonly regarded as the patron saint of Ireland. On this day, people across the world come out to celebrate Irish traditions and customs. In Korea, the event is a time for expats as well as Koreans to join in on this Irish celebration.

The Irish Association of Korea, of course, heads up the festivities on this occasion, as it has done for over 10 years. Last year's music and dance festival in Insadong attracted over 10,000 people. The exact place of this year's celebration is yet to be determined.



C O M M U N I T Y

St. Patrick's Day



Last year's St. Patrick's celebration

Visitors will again enjoy traditional Irish music performed by well-known musicians in Seoul at this year's event, more upbeat Irish rock music, and the ceili, a traditional Irish group dance. After the dancing troop performs a few sets, the public will be invited to join in and participate. Later, there are plans to host a musical hooley featuring singers and musicians.

"There are stronger connections between Irish and Korean people than you may think," said Conor O'Reilly, chairman of the Irish Association of Korea. "More and more Korean people are connecting with Ireland on a personal level, and it is because of these individual connections that Korean people and Irish people are developing a stronger affinity together."



The festivities will be held from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. More details about the location will be announced on the IAK website www.iak.co.kr.



You can also find them on Facebook by searching for "Irish Association of Korea." irishassociationofkorea@gmail.com.

Info

WHAT: St. Patrick's Day Festival

WHEN: March 17

WHERE: TBD, check www.iak.co.kr

WHO: You and about 10,000 other people

WHY: Why not?



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International clubs in Seoul



To add your club to this list, e-mail
mattlamers@groovkorea.com. — Ed.

Royal Asiatic Society

raskb@koreanet.net / www.raskb.com

This non-profit organization offers lectures about Korea's history and culture, while also arranging tours to locations throughout the country.

The Australia and New Zealand Association

events@anzakorea.com / www.anzakorea.com

Catch up with them at the Grand Hyatt Paris Bar from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on March 20. Members are charged 12,000 won. Non-members pay 17,000 won.

The British Association of Seoul

basseoul@yahoo.co.uk / www.britishseoul.com

BASS is a vibrant and active social group for British expatriates and all nationalities. We seek to enhance our members' experience in Seoul, and provide hope and financial assistance to Korean charities in need.

Seoul International Women's Association

president@siwapage.com / www.siwapage.com

SIWA is open to women of all nationalities. Its monthly Coffee Mornings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Among its many other activities are twice-yearly classes for members by members referred to as Interest Groups.

Busan International Women's Association

biwadove@yahoo.co.uk / www.biwakorea.com

This association extends friendship and support to international women living in the Busan-Kyungsang-Namdo area. The group meets at Starbucks opposite the Busan Aquarium on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Members and non-members are welcome.

Seoul Writers Workshop

seoulwriters@gmail.com / seoulwriters.wordpress.com

SWW members meet every two weeks in order to read and critique each other's work. The aim is to provide opinions and constructive criticism. Work is distributed before workshops.

Helping Others Prosper through English

bedavinci@naver.com / www.alwayshope.or.kr

HOPE's goals are to empower children through education and to open doors of opportunity for tomorrow's leaders. HOPE is one of the largest volunteer-based foreigner organizations in Korea and is comprised of both foreign and Korean staff.

KOTESOL

www.kotesol.org

Korea Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages is a professional organization for teachers of English. Our main goals are to assist members in their self-development, and improve ELT in Korea.

Overseas Chinese Women's Club

http://ocwckr.wordpress.com

This club meets monthly and is open to anyone interested in learning about Chinese culture and making new friends. Conversation is in Mandarin.



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This month's KONGLISH OF THE MONTH winner 3,000

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Photo by:
Jason Bishop






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ENTERTAINMENT

Capturing Korea: Suncheon Wetlands

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CAPTURING KOREA



(CAPTURING KOREA: SUNCHEON WETLANDS)

By Dylan Goldby

"South Jeolla Province has been one of my favorite places to shoot in Korea. There are so many beautiful things to see there. The light in the evening is also really great during the summer and can render some fantastic images. Walking the green tea fields of Boseong and watching the sunset over the Suncheon wetlands made this an unforgettable place for me."

Everyone loves beautiful pictures. Groove Korea is teaming up with the Seoul Photo Club to give readers tips on where to find the best places are on the peninsula. The Photo Challenge and Photographer in Focus will run bimonthly.

The photographers will share tips on how and where to shoot. To compete in the Photo Challenge and win great prizes from Groove Korea, head on over to flickr.com/seoulphotoclub.

Our first interviewee is Tobias Breer.

Give us a little background on you and your involvement in the Seoul Photo Club.

I have been taking pictures for about six years and it is one of my greatest passions. Working as an English teacher has kept me in Korea for two and a half years, and I originally hail from Kansas in the USA. Since I do not live in Seoul, my involvement in Seoul Photo Club has, as of yet, been constricted to participating online. However, I have really enjoyed posting pictures to the group pool and have learned from the comments and criticism I have received there. Additionally, I have also participated in some of the contests for Groove magazine. I am looking forward to participating even more as I really enjoy the group.

You've got both digital and film images in your Flickr stream. What gear do you use most and why?

I primarily shoot with four cameras: a Nikon D300 with various lenses, a Hasselblad 500c, a Contax RTS II, and a Rollei 35. Each one of these cameras I have for a special purpose: the Nikon for the range of lenses and ease of shooting digital, the Hasselblad for the pureness of shooting all manual, the Contax as a fast 35mm, and the Rollei as an everyday pocket camera. I am blessed to have some nice gear; however, you do not need great gear to make great images. You can do that with any camera. This is just a mix that works well for me and my photographic tastes.

What is your favorite place to photograph in Korea and why?

South Jeolla Province has been one of my favorite places to shoot in Korea. There are so many beautiful things to see there. The light in the evening is also really great during the summer and can render some fantastic images. Walking the green tea fields of Boseong and watching the sunset over the Suncheon wetlands made this an unforgettable place for me.

You have been shooting a lot in sub-zero temperatures of winter. What motivates you to get out there and do it in spite of the harsh weather condition?

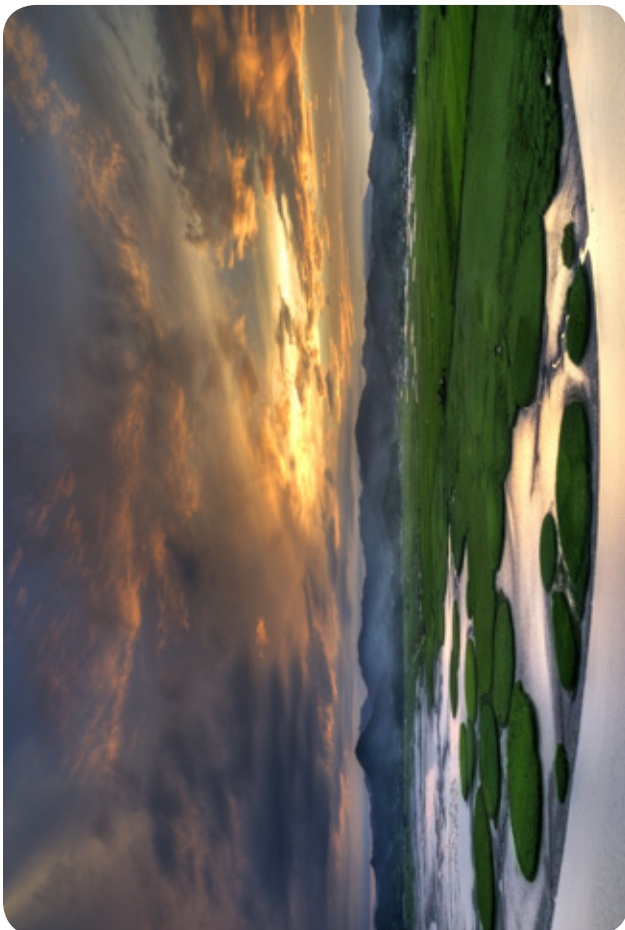
What motivates me to get out in the cold weather and take pictures is the desire to make great images. If you want really good pictures, most of the time you have to work for them. If that means getting up at five in the morning, or going outside when it is ten below, then that is what you have to do. Photography is my passion and I have to follow it even when conditions are not ideal.

When you're not doing photography, how do you entertain yourself?

Like most other people, I love meeting with my friends and just hanging out at a coffee shop or playing games at my house. In addition to that, I have been learning Taekwondo since I came to Korea and was recently awarded my second degree black belt. I also avidly study Korean and Korean culture as well.

GK To compete in the Photo Challenge, look them up on Flickr — www.flickr.com/seoul-photoclub





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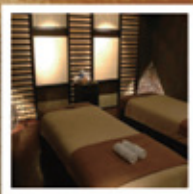
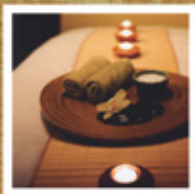
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Aries

This definitely isn't a good day to stay home and do household chores, Aries. If you do, some sad and rather irrational thoughts may plague you throughout the day. No matter what the weather's like, it would be far better to get out and do anything that keeps your mind focused on something positive. Go shopping, attend a sports event, see a movie, or visit a friend.



Libra

Have you been invited to a party that's supposed to take place today? If you think you haven't, Libra, you'd better check your calendar again. All signs suggest that you could forget a lot of important things right now and one might be a social event, perhaps business related. This might not be one of your best days. Usually you tend to have a memory like an elephant.



Taurus

Some disappointing news could put you into a rather gloomy state at some point today, Taurus. Someone close to you might suddenly have to leave town for several weeks and you'll be lonely without them. There isn't much point in dwelling on this, however. You'll just have to stay in touch via phone or email and look forward to the time when your friend comes back.



Scorpio

Too much mental or physical exercise could have you feeling a bit burned out today, Scorpio. You could be considerably slower on the uptake than usual, and those around you could be surprised that you, normally very energetic, seem to be moving like a snail. Spend as much time resting as you can, because you'll need to recoup your stamina.



Gemini

The fundraising activities of a group with which you're affiliated are going very well, Gemini, but today you're likely to find that things seem to be stalled. Checks may not come in the mail, important people don't return your phone calls, or someone doesn't show up to do the job at hand. This situation is frustrating, but it probably won't last beyond today.



Sagittarius

Although your partner may be feeling very sensual at this time, Sagittarius, you might not feel much like getting passionate. You've had a stressful few days and can barely move, so your response to sexual overtures is apt to be lukewarm at best. Your affection certainly hasn't diminished, but your partner could interpret your behavior that way.



Cancer

Career matters could move so slowly today that you just might be tempted to give up, Cancer. Don't even think that way! It's just one of those days when nothing seems to go right, even though basically everything should still be going very well for you. Don't expect much progress today, and certainly don't expect anything but gloom from colleagues.



Capricorn

Your home could be a gloomy place today, Capricorn. A member of the household is likely to be away, and this person's presence is apt to be very sorely missed. The only thing you can do under the circumstances is make sure everyone keeps busy until the absent one returns. One way to distract the family is to get them to clean up the house before the welcome.



Leo

If you've got something you're trying to study, Leo, this isn't the day to do it. Your concentration is likely to be off, and what you're reading will probably look like Greek to you. Unless it's really necessary, it would be best to put the books aside until tomorrow, since you probably won't absorb much today. Trying to read could give rise to the illusion that you've learned something.



Aquarius

An older relative or neighbor may need your assistance today, Aquarius. This is apt to be a very inconvenient time for someone to ask for help, because you have plenty of chores of your own. Nonetheless, you'll go to the rescue because that's your nature. Take care to plan your time carefully, pace yourself, and try not to do too much at once.



Virgo

Dark, depressing dreams could plague your sleep tonight, Virgo, probably alternating with silly ones that make you laugh out loud. You could wake in the morning totally confused by these images, and your tendency might be to dismiss them. Don't do this. Your dreams are trying to tell you something about yourself. Have you had your emotional ups and downs lately?



Pisces

Your creative talents could seem totally blocked today, Pisces. You may have a project you really want to work on. You have the mental focus, but the creative element just might not be there. This could prove so frustrating that you want to throw something. Do this if you must (preferably a pillow). Still, the only answer might be to shelve your work until tomorrow.

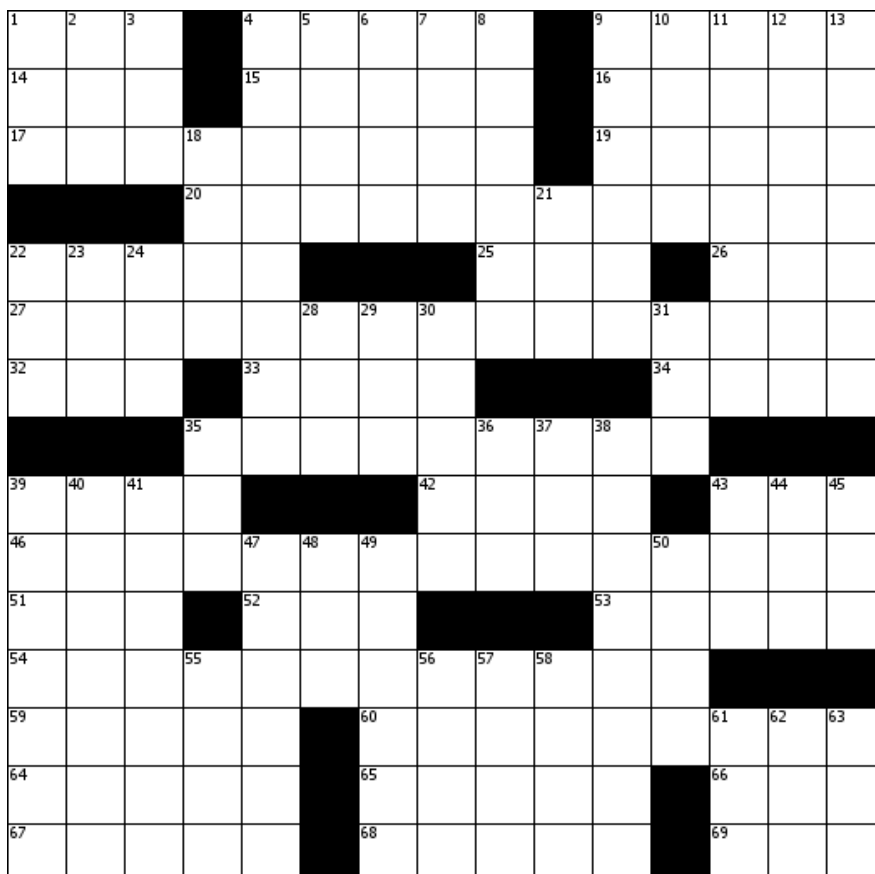
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TIP OF THE MONTH:

Looking at the grid, go over the clues for any 3-, 4- & 5-letter words. There are relatively few acceptable words of this length in the English language and so the same words tend to occur in many puzzles. This is also where a lot of crosswordese crops up. It's helpful to commit to memory many of the repetitive words, especially the crosswordese, that appear in crossword puzzles.

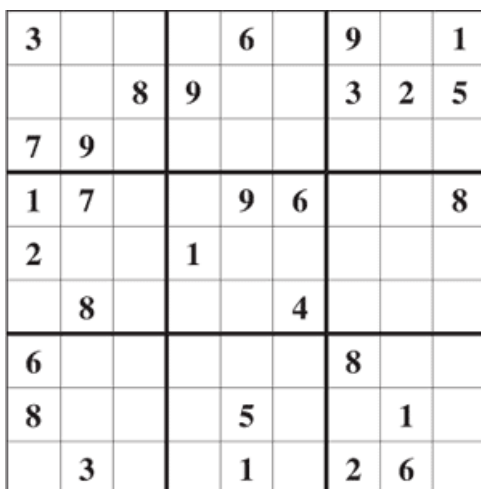


DOWN

1. Org. for swingers
2. Sounds of indifference
3. Address ender
4. She played Phoebe's mom on "Friends"
5. Name for Norwegian kings
6. Shortest-titled film to win Best Picture
7. Color of "un zafiro"
8. Gives some lip
9. Religious retreat
10. Restaurant chain noted for syrup choices
11. Naked critter?
12. Least bumpy
13. Hoops, so to speak
18. Band for which Melbourne renamed a street in 2004
21. Some abductors, in stories
22. Prefix meaning "less than normal"
23. ISP founded by Steve Case
24. Chess's ____ Lopez opening
28. "Chosen one" played by Keanu
29. Bucket source
30. Gets bamboozled
31. Survey answer
35. The Batmobile, notably
36. Fucile of "The Incredibles"
37. "____ for apple"
38. "I wanna play!"
39. Wallis and Futuna's location
40. Announcer's phrase after a home run
41. Stitched up
43. Balance provider
44. Rep's counterpart
45. Like some humor
47. Beliefs
48. Mauna ____
49. Get involved with
50. Pays a visit
55. Small farm size
56. Seamy stuff?
57. Weightlifter played by Dana Carvey
58. ____ Trice (rapper signed to Eminem's Shady Records)
61. Proof-ending abbr.
62. The U to Quentin Tarantino's Q
63. Creepy crawler

ACROSS

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Candy from a head | not Gerald | 51. Clock setting for most of TX |
| 4. Forum wear | 25. Airport board stat | 52. Kind of period |
| 9. Crosshairs user | 26. Irish actor Stephen | 53. Motorhead head |
| 14. 4, on a phone | 27. Reptilian slam? | 54. Cranky reptile's request? |
| 15. "Wild Thornberry" voiced by Lacey Chabert | 32. Toilet paper layer | 59. Magnetism, for instance |
| 6. Jostle the crowd | 33. They call the shots | 60. Ballet feat |
| 17. Vegetable that makes urine smell funny | 34. Suffix for Rock or kitchen | 64. Just sitting there |
| 19. Hid out, with "up" | 35. Sorta unsettling reptiles? | 65. "Stargate: Atlantis" race |
| 20. Reptile that's polite? | 39. Site of a tower | 66. "Schubert Dip" band |
| 22. The first sound in Gary, but | 42. "That's ____!" | 67. Grants |
| | 43. Put more in | 68. Ruhr River city |
| | 46. Horrible situation for a reptile? | 69. Not dis |



HOW TO PLAY?

Sudoku requires no calculation or arithmetic skills. It is essentially a game of placing numbers in squares, using very simple rules of logic and deduction.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Another Sudoku tip is to look for "naked quads." Naked quads are like naked triples with the exception that four cells contain only four distinct candidates in a row, column, or region. In the example at the left the naked quads are circled. They are 3, 5, 6, and 8. Remove any instance of these four numbers from the other cells in this row.



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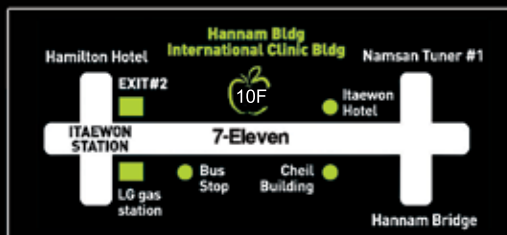


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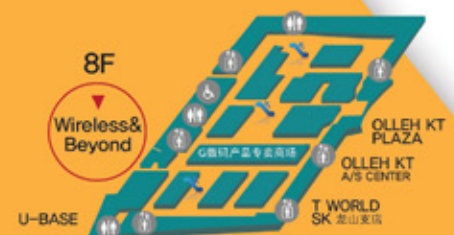
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